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THE TRENDS JOURNAL®

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

DONALD TRUMP SAID BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

'IS FUCKING ME'

TRENDS JOURNAL
HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

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About the TRENDS JOURNAL

Gerald Celente is the Founder/Director of the Trends Research Institute and Publisher of the weekly **Trends Journal** magazine. He is the author of the highly acclaimed and best-selling books *Trend Tracking* and *Trends 2000* (Warner Books).

With a 45-year track record of identifying, tracking, and forecasting trends, Celente is world-renowned as today's #1 Trend Forecaster. Celente has earned the reputation as a trusted name in trends for his many accurate forecasts; among them the 1987 Stock Market crash, Dot com bust, "Gold Bull Run," the "Panic of '08," the rise of organic foods, and the popularity of gourmet coffee long before Starbucks was a household name.

Self-described as a "Warrior for the Prince of Peace," Gerald Celente is also the Founder "Occupy Peace & Freedom," a not-for-profit movement to honor the Constitution and Bill of Rights and restore Freedoms.

INSIDE

TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT 7

ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW 7

NEW CLAIMS FOR JOBLESS BENEFITS FELL IN MOST RECENT WEEK 19

AMERICA'S TWO ECONOMIES ARE MOVING FARTHER APART 20

COLLEGE GRADS ARE THE NEW CHRONICALLY UNEMPLOYED 22

TRUMP TEAM MULLS BUILDING FACTORIES TO SPARK MANUFACTURING REVIVAL 24

HOME CONSTRUCTION SLOWS IN AUGUST 26

ORDERS FOR CARDBOARD DROP, SIGNALING ECONOMIC TROUBLE AHEAD 27

SPECIAL REPORT, THE FED'S RATE CUT: WHAT NEXT? 29

FED CUTS KEY INTEREST RATE BY A QUARTER POINT 29

STOCK INVESTORS BET ON MORE INTEREST RATE CUTS SOONER 30

FED'S RATE CUT WILL NOT LOWER U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DEBT LOAD 32

WHY FED'S RATE CUT WON'T AFFECT MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES 35

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT 37

WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT 37

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS TRENDS 40

MAJOR U.S. FIRMS RUSH TO BORROW IN EUROS 42

CHINA CEMENTS ITS PLACE AS WORLD'S LEADING EV MAKER 44

ARGENTINA'S CENTRAL BANK RESCUES PESO AMID POLITICAL CRISIS 45

CANADA CUTS INTEREST RATE BY A QUARTER POINT 48

SWISS BANKS SUCCEED IN SETTLING PAYMENTS USING A BLOCKCHAIN 49

PUTIN MULLS TAX HIKE ON THE RICH AS THE WAR ECONOMY TIRES 50

TOP TRENDS: ANOTHER GOLDEN YEAR FOR GOLD 53

GOLD'S RALLY IS THE BEST IN 46 YEARS 53

CHINESE GOLD MINDER PREPS $3.2-BILLION IPO 54

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GETTING BIGGER 56

BIGGEST RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE BROKER GETS BIGGER 56

ROCHE BUYS DRUG RESEARCH FIRM FOR UP TO $3.5 BILLION 57

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM BUYS OFFICE DEPOT RETAIL CHAIN 58

THE ISRAEL WAR 59

SMOTRICH: ISRAEL IS WORKING WITH THE U.S. TO DIVIDE GAZA, WILL BE A 'REAL ESTATE BONANZA' 59

SAUDI ARABIA SIGNS MILITARY PACT WITH NUCLEAR-ARMED PAKISTAN 61

IDF KILLS NEARLY 3,000 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA WHO WERE SEEKING AID, PROBE SAYS 64

NETANYAHU ALIENATES HIMSELF

FROM TOP GENERALS OVER HIS RECENT MILITARY ACTIONS 67
GAZA DEATH TOLL 70
FEATURED TRENDS GUEST ARTICLES 76
POLITICAL GASLIGHTING: THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST PLAYBOOK FOR DISMANTLING THE CONSTITUTION 76
THE BENEFITS OF MOLECULAR HYDROGEN AND HOW INHALATION DELIVERS THEM 82
THE FLUORIDE FRAUD: UNSAFE AT ANY DOSE 95
TRENDS IN THE MARKETS 107
COMPANIES ARE LINING UP FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT / SOCIALIZED INVESTMENTS 107
TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY 110
MASSIVE AI TRANSFORMATION: WHO WINS, WHO LOSES 110
TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: SURVEY RESPONDERS REJECT AI FATALISM 118
SURVEY REVEALS MANY NOT YET RESIGNED TO NATURAL HUMANKIND SUNSET 118
WIRED AND CNBC SAY THE HUMANOID 'CHATGPT' MOMENT IS HERE 122
TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS 126
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES USE RECENT ALLEGED AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS BY RUSSIA TO TRY AND ESCALATE WAR 126
CHINA BECOMES MORE ASSERTIVE IN THE FACE OF U.S. HEGEMONY 129
RUSSIAN FORCES INTENSIFY ATTACKS ON UKRAINE, TARGET RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPEDE WEAPONS SHIPMENTS 131
UK USES DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO TIGHTEN GRIP ON PUBLIC'S FREEDOMS 135
NEW WORLD DISORDER: FRANCE HIT WITH MORE PROTESTS OVER SPENDING CUTS 137
WTO: AI WILL BRING ON NEW AGE OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY 139
RUSSIA SAYS ESTONIA IS FALSELY ACCUSING IT OF AIRSPACE VIOLATION 141
WELCOME TO HIGHER INFLATION: EU HITS RUSSIA WITH NEW SANCTIONS OVER UKRAINE WAR144
UK'S FARAGE FINDS THAT PERSONALIZED VIDEOS COULD BE THE WAY TO VOTERS' HEARTS 146
PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW® 148
PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR UKRAINE: U.S. MILITARY CAN KICK RUSSIA'S ASS IF THERE'S A WAR 148
TRUMP USES KIRK ASSASSINATION TO CHILL FREE SPEECH IN U.S. 152
TRUMP RAMPS UP MILITARY PRESENCE NEAR VENEZUELA IN NAKED ATTEMPT TO OUST MADURO 155
TRUMP ORDERS THIRD STRIKE ON ALLEGED DRUG BOAT AS CONCERNS ABOUT LEGALITY SURFACE IN PENTAGON 159
LICENSE TO KILL: DRAFT LEGISLATION COULD GIVE TRUMP THE CHANCE TO KILL ANYONE HE DEEMS A 'TERRORIST' 161
ERIC TRUMP: CRYPTOS MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE THE U.S. DOLLAR 164
MONEY TALKS, BULLSHIT WALKS: BILLIONAIRE WINKLEVOSS TWINS

HELP DERAIL TRUMP PICK FOR CFTC CHAIR 166
UNUSUAL COINCIDENCE: HEAD OF UAE'S SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND DEPOSITS $2B IN TRUMP'S SONS' WORLD LIBERTY FINANCIAL JUST BEFORE U.S. ALLOWS EMIRATES TO BUY MOST ADVANCED COMPUTER CHIPS 168
FEDERAL JUDGE REJECTS TRUMP'S $15B DEFAMATION SUIT AGAINST THE NEW YORK TIMES 171
TRENDS-EYE VIEW 174
CELL TOWER DEVELOPERS REPORTEDLY MISLEAD RESIDENTS ABOUT NEED FOR NEW TOWERS 174
TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE 177
BREAKTHROUGH MAKES CHIPS FASTER, CHEAPER, AND TOO SMALL TO SEE 177
CHEAP CATALYST CAN END SORTING PLASTICS FOR RECYCLING 179
RESEARCHERS PINPOINT THE CAUSE OF ADHD 181
TRENDS IN AI 183
DEEPSEEK SAYS ITS FLAGSHIP AI COST ONLY $294,000 TO TRAIN 183
OPENAI'S AMBITIONS OUTSPEND ITS INCOME 185
LIGHT-POWERED AI CHIP IS MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT, 100 TIMES FASTER 187
CHINA CUTS OFF IMPORTS NVIDIA'S CUSTOM AI CHIP 188
U.S. TECH MAJORS COMMIT BILLIONS TO BUILD U.K. AI INFRASTRUCTURE 190
AI WILL TRANSFORM WORLD TRADE, WTO REPORT SAYS 191

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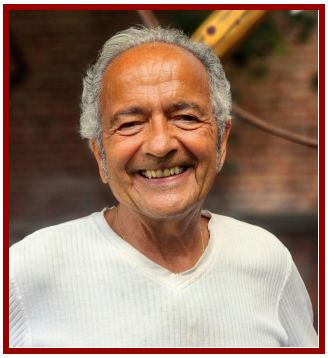

DONALD TRUMP SAID BENJAMIN NETANYAHU 'IS FUCKING ME'

Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: **"DONALD TRUMP SAID BENJAMIN NETANYAHU 'IS FUCKING ME'"**

U.S. President Donald Trump has reportedly told top administration officials that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "fucking me" after Israel bombed a Hamas negotiating team in Doha. The Israeli attack has sparked outrage across the region and President Trump still has unwavering support for Israel's genocide in Gaza.

As global condemnation mounts, many nations have recognized Palestine as a free state. Trump's response at the UN General Assembly today was swift, calling the move a "gift for Hamas," reinforcing his administration's long-standing position to support Israel.

Meanwhile, Israeli leadership is pushing for aggressive countermeasures, including full sovereignty over the West Bank–further inflaming tensions.

The Ukraine War continues to escalate as NATO warns of new airspace violations by the Russians, bringing the alliance right to the edge of a shooting war with Moscow.

On the Economic Front

Stocks edged lower, gold prices continue to spike to record highs, and bitcoin prices were lower. Read all about what in the world is going on and what you can do to prepare, prevail and prosper in these tumultuous times.

Unite for Peace and Freedom

Please join Occupy Peace and the Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice for a peace rally on Saturday, Sept. 27, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Four Corners of Freedom (Crown and John Streets) where the seeds of democracy were sown. Speakers include Judge Andrew Napolitano, Scott Ritter, Joe Lauria, Dennis Kucinich, Ray McGovern, Garland Nixon and Roger Waters (live by video feed). There will be music and vendors. For more information or to watch the livestream of the rally visit the Occupy Peace website.

And remember, to access the magazine content, go to www.trendsjournal.com and sign in with your username and password by clicking on the sign-in button near the top of the screen or the three horizontal bars. You can click on individual articles, download the PDF, peruse the Flip Book, read it in different languages or listen to it.

Sincerely,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT

ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW

On Friday, gold prices went up 1.1 percent. That's a pretty big jump and should be "news."

But not according to what the mainstream business media reports. Indeed, CNBC said: **Gold drifts higher with spotlight on Fed policy path**

"Drifts"?

They wrote that "Spot gold was up 1.1% at $3,683.24 per ounce. Prices were also up 1.1% this week."

How about gold prices "Spiked"!

No, not according to the business media which is playing down the Gold Bull Run... essentially ignoring that the price of gold has gone up over 40 percent this year.

Why, because high spiking gold prices are an economic warning alarm of socioeconomic and geopolitical danger ahead... and the White Shoe Wall Street Boys want to just keep the equity markets rising. We have made it perfectly clear that there is no relationship between Wall Street and Main Street.

And when gold prices spiked Friday and CNBC said it "drifts higher," it was not a major article on their website. You could only find it if you clicked on "Gold" at their site.

Go to Friday's *Fortune* magazine. While they reported gold prices went up, they also noted that "Gold isn't always a guaranteed winner. In robust economic periods, equities can outperform both in the short and long run.
From 1971 through 2024, the stock market's average annual return was 10.7 percent, while gold's was 7. 9 percent over the same span."

"Not a guaranteed winner"?

Equities out-beat gold by only 2.8 percent during that timeline.
Let's get this straight. Playing the equity markets is a betting game on which of the thousands of companies being traded on the Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow are going to go up in value.

Not everyone playing the stock markets bets on the winners... there were a lot of losers who bet on the wrong equities.

But betting on gold from 1971 to 2024, and now in 2025, was a solid bet. And what you bought you could keep... a tangible asset of gold coins and/or gold bars in your possession.

Go to the Saturday edition of *The Wall Street Journal* ... we could not find one word about gold prices sharply rising on Friday.

Yesterday gold spiked up again, gaining $61.70 per ounce, up 1.67 percent, closing at $3,740.

Not a word about it in the main section on CNBC ‘s site on Monday evening, and we could not find any articles in the *Financial Times* about high rising gold prices in their Tuesday edition.

As for the WSJ’s Tuesday edition, there was just one mention of yesterday’s high rising gold prices in the last paragraph of the last page of its business section: “On Monday, the value of gold continued vaulting higher, extending a record breaking run that has put the precious metal on pace for its steepest annual price increase since 1979. Front-month futures settled Monday at $3,740.70 a troy ounce.”

All the big news in the business media is what *WSJ* wrote in their MARKET section: “The stock market notched records on Monday thanks to a blockbuster deal between two of the largest players in the artificial-intelligence boom.”

Nvidia shares advanced 3.9 percent–reaching their own record–after the chip maker said it would invest up to $100 billion in ChatGPT maker OpenAI to fund an enormous data-center build-out. Even as AI mania has made stocks pricier than ever by some measures, Monday’s deal appeared to signal that the richly valued companies at the center of it all still think there is room to run.”

Again, by the equity market facts, there is absolutely no connection between Wall Street and Main Street. The sharply rising AI/Magnificent Seven stocks are unrelated to the declining standard of living for the working class.

And with Gold prices skyrocketing to $3,790 per ounce and closing up $17.40 from Monday’s close, not one peep about it on the front page of CNBC’s website today... as we go to press.

Then and Now

As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, we have been bullish on gold since September of 2023. Back then, when gold was trading at $1,850 per ounce, we had forecast that gold prices hit their bottom and would steadily rise.

Then, as subscribers well know, one of our **Top Trends for 2024** was that it would be a "Golden Year for Gold." And it was. Last year gold prices went up nearly 30 percent. Why, because of the dire geopolitical crises such as the Ukraine War and the Israel War.

We had also forecast that the dollar, which was on an upswing in the first half of 2024, would begin to weaken when the Federal Reserve would start lowering interest rates, which we had forecast they would. In September 2024, the Feds cut its benchmark rate 50 basis points and another 25 basis points in December.

Again, this is not rocket science; the lower interest rates fall, the deeper the dollar falls, and the deeper the dollar falls, the higher gold prices rise. Gold is dollar based, thus, the stronger other currencies rise, the cheaper it is for those nations to buy gold. And most often, the lower interest rates fall, the higher inflation rises. And the higher inflation rises, the higher gold prices rise because the value of currencies declines.

And what is totally ignored in the mainstream media is the devastating economic impact of the three-year COVID War, launched on Chinese Lunar New Year, "The Year of the Rat," in 2020 that destroyed the lives and livelihoods across the globe as a result of the draconian political lockdown policies. To fight their war, governments pumped in countless trillions of dollars of fake money backed by nothing and printed on nothing... and zero/negative interest rates to artificially prop up economies and equity markets which should have tanked.

Of course, the cheap money binge also brought the world high inflation. In the U.S. for example, in 2019, the year before the COVID War, the average price for a single-family home was $269,100 according to the National Association of Realtors. Today, a similar home has a median price of $429,400, according to data from Redfin.

The facts are all there for all to see, but again, they are not reported by the mainstream media Presstitutes who are nothing more than media whores who get paid to put out for their corporate pimps and government whore masters.

TREND FORECAST: The Trends Journal *forecasts that gold prices are on-trend to keep rising this year and gold prices will keep climbing in 2026. Beyond the economic data, what no one knows is how much and how quickly will the Ukraine and Israel wars escalate. Should common sense and human dignity prevail and the wars end—which unfortunately at this stage of time is unlikely—gold prices will retract somewhat but will still stay high because of dire socioeconomic consequences such as the Office Building Bust and Dot-com Bust 2.0.*

LAST WEEK: FED CUTS RATE, MARKETS SET RECORDS

All three major U.S. stock indexes closed at record highs on Thursday and again on Friday last week, ending the five-day trading period with gains of at least 1 percent on the U.S. Federal Reserve's quarter-point interest rate cut.

Prices also were buoyed by investors' expectation that the central bank will cut its policy rate at least once more this year. A majority of the Fed's rate-setting committee foresees two more reductions before 2026.

"The story this week is that we got our cut and we are going to get a few more cuts," Liz Thomas, chief strategist at SoFi, an online financial services company, said to *The Wall Street Journal*. "The market is pretty happy about that, and we're back onto the rate-cut rally bandwagon."

For the week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 1 percent, the NASDAQ 2.2 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index 1.2 percent.

The Russell 2000 index of small and mid-cap companies gained 2.2 percent for the week, meeting or besting the three headline indexes. Smaller companies tend to have more short-term debt and variable-rate loans than larger ones; the Fed's lower rate should have a direct impact on these businesses.

The rate cut also gave markets a little more taste for risk. The premium on corporate bonds that investors charge above the yield on treasury securities was its smallest since 1998, the *WSJ* said.

Still, some investors are waiting for third-quarter earnings reports to assess the degree of damage the weakening jobs market and Donald Trump's tariff war have done to corporate performance.

FedEx has warned it foresees losing $1 billion in annual earnings this year because of tariffs. Still, its second-quarter results, posted Friday, beat expectations.

Analysts expect companies listed in the S&P to increase third-quarter earnings by 7.7 percent above the same period last year. That would mark the index's ninth quarter in a row of increased earnings, analyst John Butters at FactSet wrote in a note to clients.

"We are not starting to see tariffs eat into bottom lines from a weak position," Thomas at SoFi noted. "Margins have been above average for a while, so there's room for that to come down."

"While September has historically delivered pullbacks, this year's market has defied that pattern, climbing 35 percent since March with strong technical and fundamental tailwinds," Mark Hackett, chief strategist at Nationwide, wrote in a note.

"Still, with the S&P 500 trading at 22 times forward earnings and volatility suppressed, a period of consolidation or choppiness would be a normal and healthy development," he cautioned.

The yield on the 10-year treasury note rose 0.029 percent on Friday, closing at 4.133 percent. Yields rise when bond prices fall.

Gold prices kept climbing last week, trading at $3,683 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 19 September. The price spiked momentarily above $3,700 on 17 September, the day the U.S. Federal Reserve announced a quarter-point interest rate cut.

Brent crude oil's price for October delivery ticked down 0.01 percent to $66.68 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 19 September. West Texas Intermediate's price slipped less than 0.01 percent to $62.68. Markets are balancing expectations of an oversupply with hopes that the trade war will ease and revive economic activity in key countries.

Bitcoin was essentially flat for the week, trading at $115,368 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 19 September for a weekly gain of less than 0.01 percent.

Outside of the U.S., stocks ended the week mixed.

The FTSE 100 in London lost 0.72 percent. The European Stoxx 600 edged down 0.33 percent.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 gained 0.54 percent. South Korea's KOSPI index rose 1.1 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.9 percent. Mainland China's benchmark CSI 300 retreated 0.73 percent and the tech-focused SSE Composite gave back 1.44 percent.

YESTERDAY: STOCKS SEE GAINS AS TECH STOCKS STAY STRONG

The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished the day up 66.27, or 0.14 percent, to 46,381.54, and the S&P 500 closed up 29.39, or 0.44 percent, to 6,693.75. The tech-heavy NASDAQ closed up 157.50, or 0.70 percent, to 22,788.98.

Stephen Miran, U.S. President Donald Trump's pick for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, told *The New York Times* that he believes the current interest rate in the U.S. should be lowered by two percentage points to 2.5 percent.

"Leaving short-term interest rates roughly two percentage points too tight risks unnecessary layoffs and higher unemployment," he said.

TRENDPOST: *Miran was nominated to the position for a reason, and that is because Trump wants lower interest rates for cheap money so he can keep his money junky*

supporters happy. (See "ECONOMISTS WARN OF IMPACT OF TRUMP'S ATTACKS ON THE FEDERAL RESERVE," 9 Sep 2025.)

We have noted that it is a myth to believe that the Fed is a separate entity from the government. (See "AS FORECAST, PRES. TRUMP DEMANDS FED LOWER INTEREST RATES," 10 Jun 2025.)

The big news in the tech sector was that Nvidia hit a new high after the Santa Clara, Calif., company announced a $100 billion investment in OpenAI. Shares of Oracle also increased after it named its new co-CEOs and confirmed that it will run the U.S. version of TikTok's algorithm after concerns about the Chinese company's ties to Beijing.

TREND FORECAST: *Oracle's control of TikTok's algorithm will ensure that the website will suffocate any posts or news updates that are critical of Israel's genocide in Gaza. Oracle's Larry Ellison is a major backer of the IDF and has close ties to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Ellison is a witness in Netanyahu's corruption trial. And,* ***The Trends Journal*** *and Gerald Celente have been already banned by TikTok.*

Elsewhere, London's FTSE gained 10.01, or 0.11 percent, to 9,226.68 and the benchmark STOXX600 lost 0.72, or 0.13 percent, to 553.40. In. Asia, Japan's Nikkei gained 447.85, or 0.99 percent, to 45,493.66. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 200.96, or 0.76 percent, to 26,344.14. In China, the Shanghai Composite gained 8.487, or 0.22 percent, to 3,828.576 and the Shenzhen Component gained 87.11, or 0.67 percent, to 13,157.97.

OIL: London-traded Brent crude oil futures settled down 0.2 percent to $66.57 a barrel and U.S. West Texas Intermediate closed down 0.1 percent to $62.64 a barrel.

The main concern in the oil market was oversupply as the EU and U.S. try to pass new sanctions on Russian crude in hopes of choking Moscow's war economy.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has identified the oil market as the Wild West because of the risk of a wider war in the Middle East and an expanded war in Eastern Europe. Tensions in the Middle East remain high over Israel's continued genocide in*

Gaza and allegations from European countries that Russia has begun to violate NATO airspace during its war with Ukraine.

GOLD: The precious metal gained $61.70, or 1.67 percent, to $3,745.70 as investors continue to seek a safe haven amid all of the world's uncertainties.

TREND FORECAST: *Gerald Celente has long said that when the Federal Reserve begins lowering interest rates, the USD will lose value and gold prices will increase.* ***The Trends Journal*** *continues to see the precious metal as the top safe-haven bet.*

BITCOIN: The world's most popular crypto lost $2,717.20, or 2.36 percent, to 112,606.34 as of 3:03 p.m. ET.

TREND FORECAST: *Gerald Celente has said that nothing goes straight up, and we're seeing that play out in the BTC market now as the recent sell-off has raised concerns about a crash. Any larger-than-usual drop in price will be embraced by advocates as a chance to buy BTC at a discount for where it will eventually head. Trump's family is deeply invested in the future of BTC, and he will do all he can to support the price. (See "TRUMP'S FAMILY SEES NEW CRYPTO WINDFALL AFTER BITCOIN-MINING COMPANY'S LISTING" 9 Sep 2025, "TRUMP FAMILY'S CRYPTO VENTURES ARE PERFORMING BETTER THAN ANY OTHER TRUMP BUSINESS" 19 Aug 2025, "TRUMP'S SONS TALK AT BITCOIN CONFERENCE, TAKE AIM AT TRADITIONAL BANKS" 3 Jun 2025, "ETHICAL CONCERNS MOUNT OVER TRUMP'S CRYPTO VENTURE" 11 Mar 2025 and "TRUMP NAMES CRYPTOCURRENCIES FOR STRATEGIC RESERVE, SPARKING RALLY" 4 Mar 2025.)*

TODAY: STOCKS TAKE A BREATHER AFTER POWELL'S COMMENTS

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 88.76, or 0.19 percent, to 46,292.78 and the S&P 500 lost 36.83, or 0.55 percent, to 6,656.92. The tech-heavy Nasdaq lost 215.503, or 0.95 percent, to 22,573.473.

Jerome Powell, the Fed Head, helped take some of the wind out of the sails on Wall Street when he said that he thought that he believed stocks are "fairly highly valued."

TRENDPOST: *Powell, who is under pressure from the White House to keep the president's money junkies happy, indicated today that more interest rate cuts could be on the horizon, telling an audience in Providence, R.I., that rates are "still modestly restrictive," according to The Wall Street Journal.*

The paper said Powell warned that inflation in the U.S. that came in at 2.92 percent last month, could edge to 3 percent if the central bank cuts interest rates at too fast a clip. (The Fed cut interest rates by a quarter point last week, which put overnight rates in a range of 4 percent to 4.25 percent.

Stephen Miran, Trump's appointee on the Federal Reserve Board, has called the so-called Fed goal of 2 percent inflation is unnecessarily cumbersome.

"I just think inflation is very difficult to measure. So having a very precise inflation target like that can lead to excessive micromanagement," he said.

Elsewhere, London's FTSE lost 3.36, or 0.036 percent, to 9,223.32 and the benchmark STOXX600 gained 0.28 percent to close at 554.95. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei gained 447.85, or 0.99 percent, to 45,493.66 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 185.02, or 0.70 percent, to 26,159.12. China's Shanghai Composite lost 6.74, or 0.18 percent, to 3,821.83 and the Shenzhen Component lost 38.16 points to close at 13,119.82.

OIL: London-trade Brent crude settled up 1.6 percent to $67.63 a barrel and U.S. West Texas Intermediate rose $1.13, or 1.8 percent, to $63.41 a barrel.

Reuters noted that traders said the increase was due to a delay in the deal to kick start the flow of oil from Iraq's Kurdistan into Turkey over disagreements about debt repayments. The oil flow was stopped in March 2023 over disagreements about who should be in charge of these exports.

The delay calmed fears about market oversupply because it would mean the release of 230,000 barrels a day into the global market already concerned about Trump's tariff war and the increase in electric cars.

TRENDPOST: *Oil remains a wild card because, as you watched at Trump's speech to the UN General Assembly, the president is willing to support Israel to the end and has no more ideas to end the Ukraine War. Trump told reporters in New York that he would support NATO countries shooting down Russian planes that enter alliance airspace.*

And today he posted on his social media platform that "After getting to know and fully understand the Ukraine/Russia Military and Economic situation and, after seeing the Economic trouble it is causing Russia, I think Ukraine, with the support of the European Union, is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form," and that Russia has been "fighting aimlessly for three and a half years a War that should have taken a Real Military Power less than a week to win. This is not distinguishing Russia."

What he did not mention is the U.S. lost the Afghan War, the longest war in American history, lost the Vietnam War and lost the Iraq War... "that should have taken a Real Military Power less than a week to win."

GOLD: The precious metal was up $19.30, or 0.52 percent, an ounce to $3,765.00 as of 4:10 p.m. ET.

As always, the gold market paid attention to Powell's comments about the state of the economy, in particular his position that the "near-term risks to inflation are tilted to the upside and risks to employment to the downside," which he admitted is a "challenging situation."

"Two-sided risks mean that there is no risk-free path," Powell told the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce 2025 Economic Outlook Luncheon.

TRENDPOST: Trends Journal *subscribers are well aware that economic concerns often compel investors to look to safe haven investments. Compound the economic risks with the risks of wider wars in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and you can see why gold continues to rise. (See "TOP TRENDS: ANOTHER GOLDEN YEAR FOR GOLD," 23 Sep 2025.)*

BITCOIN: The world's most popular crypto struggled most of the day and was down $858.55, or 0.76 percent, to $111,913.20 as of 4:19 p.m. ET.

Investing.com noted that the sentiment took a hit yesterday after data from Coinglass found that $1.5 billion in long positions across all cryptos were liquidated, which the report noted was the "biggest one-day washout in months."

The Coin Telegraph wrote: *"The Fed's interest rate cut last week, which was once viewed as a vital bullish catalyst for BTC, failed to push markets higher, implying that the Bitcoin bull cycle may have run its course."*

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has noted that there is no investment that goes up forever and if you are an investor in bitcoin, you should embrace at least some risk tolerance. But have no fear, Trump, once a crypto skeptic, will do all he can to make sure bitcoin succeeds because his family business depends on it. (See "TRUMP'S FAMILY SEES NEW CRYPTO WINDFALL AFTER BITCOIN-MINING COMPANY'S LISTING," 9 Sep 2025.)*

NEW CLAIMS FOR JOBLESS BENEFITS FELL IN MOST RECENT WEEK

In the week ending 13 September, 33,000 fewer people filed new claims for unemployment insurance than during the week before. The number fell from 264,000 to 231,000. In a *Wall Street Journal* poll, economists had forecasted 240,000 claims.

The number of ongoing claims also ticked down to 1.91 million from 1.92 million in the previous week. The average duration of unemployment jumped to 24.5 weeks in August, the longest in nearly 3.5 years, from 24.1 weeks in July.

Despite fewer claims filed in the most recent week, the labor market continues to weaken broadly. In June, July, and August, the U.S. economy added an average of just 33,000 jobs a month. The jobless rate edged up from 4.2 percent to 4.3 last month.

The flagging labor market was a chief reason the U.S. Federal Reserve took a quarter point off its policy interest rate last week, chair Jerome Powell told a press gathering.

Economists were cheered by the reduction in new jobless claims.

"We were all battered by a lot of negative talk about the labor market in the Fed statements and chair Powell's comments" last week, Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a note.

"The steady trend in claims continues at a rate that is way too low to signal a recession," he added. "It also undermines calls for more and bigger rate cuts, both at the Fed and in the markets."

During the most recent week, new claims fell most in Connecticut, Michigan, and Texas and increased significantly in Massachusetts, New York, and South Carolina.

"If continuing claims generally stay within the recent range and do not increase further, that would point to less upside risk for the unemployment rate," Citigroup economist Gisela Young wrote in a note to clients.

"However, jobless claims only represent a subset of the unemployed people in the labor force because not everyone is eligible and unemployed individuals can only collect unemployment benefits for a limited period of time," she added.

TREND FORECAST: *The forces underlying the economy, and thus the labor market, are trending negative. As we have detailed, by the facts, the jobs that are being created are low-paying health care, social services and hospitality sectors.*

Inflation is still rising, fewer job openings are being advertised, and business decision-makers are waiting in suspense for some indication of a sustainable long-term direction for U.S. policy.

Given current conditions, no such indication is likely to make itself clear before the end of this year. As a result, the labor market will not recover significantly this year and is more likely to decline further before any meaningful recovery begins.

This foreshadows a weak holiday sales season for retailers that would slow the U.S. economy further and nudge it in the direction of a recession.

AMERICA'S TWO ECONOMIES ARE MOVING FARTHER APART

The U.S. has two economies that are becoming more and more separate from each other.

High-earning households and many older adults are well-fixed. They have comfortable savings accounts, cheap

mortgages, and their retirement funds and stock market investments have skyrocketed in the past four years.

For lower-income earners and young people, the spurt of post-COVID raises and competition for workers has ended. These households are looking for even more ways to cut spending. Many are struggling to find work. Rents and home prices have soared.

The national unemployment rate is 4.2 percent but about 7 percent among Black Americans.

Equally alarming, the rate is 6.5 percent among recent college graduates. That is the highest in a decade, aside from a blip during the COVID War. (See "College Grads Are The New Chronically Unemployed" in this issue.) The rise of artificial intelligence is largely responsible as it takes over entry-level professional jobs that once provided an entrée to a profession for new grads, as we reported in "A Brand New Degree in Computer Science and Not a Job To Be Found" (19 Aug 2025).

Before the COVID era, the gap between the two economies was narrowing. In recent years, pay for the bottom third of earners grew faster than for the top third. Now the distance has widened again. Just this year, high-income earners are galloping further ahead.

In August, the annual page of wage increases slowed to 0.9 percent for the bottom third of American earners but roared ahead by 3.6 percent for the top third, the speediest gain since November 2021, Bank of America (BoA) data showed.

Also last month, the lowest-earning third of households increased their spending by 0.3 percent, while the richest third boosted their outlay by 2.2 percent.

The top 10 percent of earners, who make $250,000 a year or more, now account for 49.2 percent of the nation's household spending, compared to 45.7 percent 10 years ago, the BoA found.

Also, the age of first-time homebuyers is now 38, a record, compared with 35 in 2023.

“As the unemployment rate has slowly crept up and job growth has fallen more sharply, wage growth has moderated, but particularly for low-wage workers,” Arin Dube, a University of Massachusetts economist, said in a *WSJ* interview.

“This is disappointing news for those who were hoping the reversal in wage inequality would be a more permanent feature of the American landscape,” he added.

TRENDPOST: *Typically, young people are more optimistic about the future than older adults. Since the beginning of this year, that norm has flipped in the University of Michigan’s benchmark monthly survey of consumer sentiment. The young now see a bleaker future than the old. Indeed, as detailed, they cannot afford to buy a home, can’t find high paying jobs, many are deep in college, automobile and credit card debt.*

COLLEGE GRADS ARE THE NEW CHRONICALLY UNEMPLOYED

The U.S. unemployment rate has held at just above 4 percent for more than a year. However, underneath that headline figure, the number of people out of work for at least 26 weeks—the “long-term unemployed”—has reached 26 percent of jobless workers, the most in more than three years.

“Such an increase is unprecedented outside of recessions,” an unnamed economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond said to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Perhaps what is equally alarming is that long-term unemployed people with college degrees now make up a third of that group, compared with a fifth in 2015, according to an analysis of government data by economists at the University of Chicago.

There are more college grads now than there were in 2015 and the job market has improved for workers without a college diploma, reducing their numbers among the unemployed.

However, employers now simply have less need for college-educated workers, the *WSJ* noted.

Automation, technological change, and artificial intelligence have taken intellectual tasks that used to require a college degree. Also, recent drastic cuts to the federal budget and workforce have disproportionately impacted workers with degrees, the *WSJ* reported.

“The data is signaling that there’s some restructuring going on,” labor economist Andreas Mueller at the University of Zurich told the *WSJ*. “People are losing jobs and can’t find jobs in high-skilled occupations.”

Even before the current artificial intelligence (AI) revolution began in late 2022, earlier forms of software were supplanting human skills in fields ranging from accounting to retail purchasing. The proportion of advertised jobs requiring a college education is 6 percent lower now than 2019, data from jobs website Indeed shows.

Now AI has taken over reviewing resumés for many companies. The lack of personal contact with a human makes it harder for an applicant to stand out. The automated hiring process is hardest on college-educated applicants because of the growing number competing for a shrinking number of jobs.

TREND FORECAST: *For decades, young people have been told that to make anything of themselves in the workforce, they need a college degree. Generations of Americans took that to heart and now owe billions in student debt while the jobs market has been transformed before many of those graduates could gain a foothold in it.*

Now artificial intelligence has shifted the job market, giving security to people with hand skills that cannot yet be replicated by a computer—styling hair, plumbing a bathroom, fixing a washing machine, working in construction, etc.

A higher priority now is moving to combining technical training with hand skills. Auto mechanics, dental and veterinary assistants, physical therapists, electricians, plumbers and similar occupations will now provide the best mix of earnings and job security.

Those with a degree, no job, and a load of student debt will increasingly demand government help to get their lives underway. The new political movement is being witnessed by the New York City mayor's race where the leading candidate, Zohran Mamdani, is promising free bus rides, taxing the rich, universal child care and freezing rent increases for the city's 1 million rent-controlled apartments.

TRUMP TEAM MULLS BUILDING FACTORIES TO SPARK MANUFACTURING REVIVAL

Officials in the Trump administration are considering using $550 billion from Japan to build factory buildings in the U.S. as an incentive for key industries to expand or relocate in America, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Japan pledged to invest $550 billion in the U.S. in exchange for Donald Trump approving lower tariff rates for the country this month. In a statement last week, administration spokesperson Kush Desai said Japan's money "will be key to fueling America's next Golden Age."

The factories could be tailored to the needs of computer chipmakers, critical minerals and energy companies, pharmaceutical firms, quantum computing, and shipbuilders, the *WSJ* said. Under the plan, companies committing to occupy the buildings would receive expedited regulatory review, unnamed sources said.

The plan would give Trump a deciding hand in which industries, and which companies in those industries, would receive preferential treatment.

One of Trump's key goals is to revive manufacturing in the U.S. Building ready-to-occupy factory buildings would join his tariff war as a strategy to achieve that aim.

Trump and commerce secretary Howard Lutnick have talked about government involvement in building nuclear power plants, factories for drugmakers, and facilities for making gas turbines, people familiar said.

According to Trump, the U.S. and Japan agreed that Trump would determine how Japan's $550 billion would be invested. Lutwick is to chair a committee that would make recommendations to Trump, who would make the final selection. The U.S. would take 90 percent of the profits from the projects Japan's money funds.

If Japan refuses to put money into a project that Trump chooses, Trump will have the right to increase tariffs on Japan, the administration said.

Japan recalls the agreement differently. It said it agreed to make a combination of investments, loans, and loan guarantees totaling $550 billion and that profits would be shared equally.

Also, Japan's investments in the U.S. are expected to benefit Japan, Ryosei Akazawa, Japan's chief trade negotiator, said in a public comment.

The plan would extend Trump's reach into the private sector. In addition to directing factory construction, the government now owns portions of Intel and U.S. Steel and can claim a cut of profits U.S. chipmakers earn from sales to China.

Implementing the plan for the government to build factories would take years to implement and could be discarded by Trump's successor, an aspect that could make companies reluctant to commit to the plan, the *WSJ* said.

TREND FORECAST: *Trump has succeeded in getting money from nations in return for lower tariff rates and in cadging a share of corporations' ownership and profits. He will continue to see that as a new normal and extend those expectations to other negotiations in the future.*

However, as detailed, while building factories in the United States to increase its manufacturing base is positive, as the facts detail, it will take a few years for the trend to accelerate the nation's gross domestic product.

HOME CONSTRUCTION SLOWS IN AUGUST

New home construction dropped about 8.5 percent in August, month over month, to 1.307 million units as mortgage interest rates remained above 6.5 percent. The figure was down 6 percent from a year earlier.

July's figure was revised upward slightly to 1.429 million.

Economists had forecasted a somewhat higher 1.37 million housing starts last month.

Residential building permits dropped from 1.362 million units in July to 1.312 million in August, indicating no particular change in the current housing market.

Builders' outlook on current and future conditions also was little changed in the latest survey by the National Home Builders Association.

TREND FORECAST: *The national average U.S. interest rate on a fixed-rate, 30-year mortgage fell below 6.3 percent last week. Buyers are poised and ready to pounce when rates decline by more than a few points.*

Because yields on treasury securities bounce from day to day, there is no guarantee that yields that are low one week will remain low the next.

Therefore, the housing market will remain choppy in the weeks ahead. Homebuilders, lenders, and state and local officials will continue to attempt to offer special rates and other incentives to keep the housing market and construction industry healthy until interest rates come down sustainably to a level that middle- and modest-income buyers can afford.

ORDERS FOR CARDBOARD DROP, SIGNALING ECONOMIC TROUBLE AHEAD

Demand for cardboard boxes has plummeted this year, an economic danger signal. Everything from pizzas to lawnmowers to floor-standing appliances are shipped in corrugated boxes. A slump in calls for cardboard is a warning of a future drop in economic activity.

International Paper, the largest U.S. box maker, forecasted a 1-percent growth in sales earlier this year. It now expects a 2-percent decline, CEO Andy Silvernail told investors last month.

People are buying less in an inflation-weary economy. Donald Trump's tariff wars have put purchases on hold from households to boardrooms. Home sales have slowed, cutting demand for moving boxes and for packaging for building supplies, furniture, and other related items.

Amazon and other online retailers are now shipping more items in plastic bags and heavy paper envelopes than in cardboard boxes.

Box factories and the paper mills that supply them are closing. When International Paper permanently shuts two Georgia plants this year, the U.S. will have lost a total of about 9 percent of its box-making capacity, twice the capacity lost during the Great Recession, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The loss of capacity should enable box makers to raise their own prices in 2026 even if demand remains slow, industry analysts told the *WSJ*.

That might not matter. The U.S. is using about 20 percent fewer boxes per person now than it did at the industry's peak in 1999, the *WSJ* reported.

At the same time, the cost of making a box has risen sharply. Linerboard, the outer layer of a corrugated box, is now priced at about $945 per ton, up almost 24 percent from $725 at the close of 2019.

Makers of linerboard tried raising their prices by an average of about $70 a ton earlier this year. However, buyers told a survey by the trade newsletter PPI Pulp & Paper Week they paid about $40 more. That shows box-buying customers' determination to see prices not go higher, but suppliers will continue to charge more as their own costs rise, the *WSJ* noted.

The industry's troubles have led to several takeovers and buyouts to gain scale and eliminate redundant expenses. The mergers have concentrated productive capacity in just three main suppliers.

Last year, Smurfit Kappa in Ireland combined with Georgia's Westrock in a $20-billion deal. Last January, International Paper paid $7.2 billion for DS Smith, a major European box company. In August, Packaging Corp. of America bought the containerboard operations of Greif, a Massachusetts company with 250 locations worldwide.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have greatly detailed, by the economic data, there is no relationship between Wall Street and Main Street. While the U.S. equity markets keep hitting new highs, America's middle class keeps hitting new lows...especially, as we detail, the younger generation. The holiday shopping season will begin at the end of October/early November, and the slump in cardboard sales may signal economic trouble ahead for American workers. It is important to monitor retail sales since they generate some 70 percent of U.S. GDP.*

SPECIAL REPORT, THE FED'S RATE CUT: WHAT NEXT?

FED CUTS KEY INTEREST RATE BY A QUARTER POINT

On 17 September, the U.S. Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee shaved a quarter point from its policy interest rate, dropping the rate charged on loans to 4.25 percent in its first rate reduction since December 2024 and to its lowest in almost three years.

The lower rates will give a bit of breathing room to people paying down credit card balances and businesses with variable-rate loans.

Eleven of the 12 committee members endorsed the cut. Stephen Miran, the committee's new member, urged a half-point cut. Miran is on leave from his White House job as head of the Council of Economic Advisors while he serves as a member of the Fed's board of governors.

A slim majority of the committee's 12 voting members signaled they expect the central bank to trim the rate again in each of the bank's October and December meetings. Of the 19 committee members in total, seven foresee no more cuts this year and two think one more is likely.

The expectation of further rate reductions indicates the officials expect the jobs market, already weak, to slacken further in the months ahead.

The declining number of people looking for jobs, and of the number of people finding them, have "certainly gotten everyone's attention," Fed chair Jerome Powell told a post-meeting press briefing. "That downside risk is now a reality."

Despite White House pressure, the Fed has held its key rate steady until now because the labor market seemed to be holding up and inflation was tethered near the bank's 2-percent target rate.

Now inflation is rising again and the economy was found to have created more than 910,000 fewer jobs in the past 12 months than previously estimated. Job growth in the second quarter was anemic and the economy actually lost jobs in June.

Prices rose at a rate of 2.9 percent in July, compared to 2.6 percent in April, a four-year low.

By law, the central bank has a dual mandate to support the labor market and control inflation. Inflation, while rising, now seems like less of an urgency to most committee members than the crashing jobs market.

However, some officials still worry that steadily rising inflation could acclimate businesses and consumers to the idea that prices will continue increasing, an assumption that can create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

TREND FORECAST: *Fed officials' expectation that the bank will cut its key interest rate even more this year indicates that they see the jobs market at greater risk of harm than the risk of inflation.*

The lower interest rates fall, the higher inflation, which has already has begun rising... will keep rising. And the lower interest rates fall, the deeper the dollar will fall and the higher gold prices will rise... as is clearly evident with gold prices hitting new highs.

STOCK INVESTORS BET ON MORE INTEREST RATE CUTS SOONER

Despite the U.S. Federal Reserve's cautious statements, Wall Street continues to funnel money into stocks on the assumption that the central bank will cut interest rates at least once more this year and probably twice, with more reductions possible next year.

Lower borrowing costs would likely boost corporate earnings and profits so investors want to buy in now and ride stock prices higher as the rate cuts come along.

The Fed pared its interest rate on loans to 4.25 percent this month. Speculators see the rate at 3 percent or even less a year from now, data service LSEG reported.

In contrast, this spring investors were projecting a rate of 3.5 percent by the end of 2026.

The wagers are also more optimistic than the central bank's rate-setters. At this month's meeting, the median projection was a rate of 3.4 percent in December 2026. That would mean two fewer quarter-point cuts than investors are counting on.

The labor market has weakened, the economy has slowed, and inflation is edging up again, investors point out, all good reasons to cut rates even if the economy stays out of a recession.

"I think the market is getting a little bit excited," fixed-income portfolio manager Ed Al-Hussainy at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, said to *The Wall Street Journal.* Fed officials who set interest rates "are very conservative," he added. "They don't want to overtorque the economy with inflation still lurking in the system."

Donald Trump has been demanding the central bank cut its interest rate by as much as three full points and has installed his chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors as the newest member of the Fed's board of governors.

However, most investors believe the bank's rate decisions are not driven by political pressures, the *WSJ* noted.

Markets' inflation expectations remain muted, the *WSJ* added, a signal that investors still trust the Fed to manage interest rates in a way that will keep inflation in check.

Also, "Trump's tariffs have yet to push up inflation as much as many had feared," the *WSJ* pointed out. "There are signs that underlying inflation pressures are moderating, as prices of services rise more slowly."

TREND FORECAST: *As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, we had forecast that President Trump would keep pushing the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates. He did it before when he was President back in 2018 when the Dow had its worst December since the Great Depression in 1931. In January, Fed-Head Jerome Powell had the Fed cut rates and the equity markets spiked some 22 percent that year.*

Therefore, the President will do all he can to have the Feds lower interest rates to keep the equity markets and economy growing.

And again, as we keep noting, the lower interest rates fall the deeper the dollar falls, and the deeper the dollar falls the higher gold prices will rise. Also, as we have noted, President Trump is in favor of a weak dollar because he says that the weaker the dollar, the better it is for U.S. companies that export products and services. Back in August he said he wants "not a weak dollar, but a weaker dollar," because "You make a hell of a lot more money with a weaker dollar. When you have a strong dollar, you can't sell anything. It's only good for inflation, and it's good psychologically. It makes you feel good."

FED'S RATE CUT WILL NOT LOWER U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DEBT LOAD

The U.S. Federal Reserve has cut its interest rate. It might seem that the cut should make a nice difference in lowering the amount the government has to pay in interest. Except it won't.

It will reduce the cost of short-term securities that the treasury issues frequently, some with maturity dates as soon as four weeks.

However, 80 percent or more of the government's debt is in notes and bonds with maturities ranging from two to 30 years. The interest rates on those are locked in when the securities are issued.

“Even if long-term rates immediately reflected the Fed’s cut, it would take years for new debt with cheaper borrowing costs to replace maturing notes and bonds,” *The Wall Street Journal* explained.

“You’re not going to drastically change budget deficits that are approaching $2 trillion,” Jessica Reidl, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, said to the *WSJ*. “It’s too small of a rate change on too small a share of our total debt.”

Also, short-term and long-term interest rates are separate considerations.

Long-term investors weigh a combination of several factors: inflation risks over time, prospects for U.S. economic growth, likely changes in government spending policies, all projected over the life of a particular security.

Investors can, and usually do, demand a higher return on bond investments committed for years or decades than on securities that will mature within a few weeks or months.

Over the past 50 years, interest on the national debt averaged about half the amount spent on the military; today, the interest bill exceeds military spending and accounts for about $1 out of every $7 the government spends, according to the *WSJ*.

Due to the growing number of elders collecting Medicare and Social Security benefits, increased military spending, borrowing to cover healthcare costs and the economic emergency during the COVID War, and two sharp tax cuts in the past eight years, the debt is nearing 100 percent of GDP and closing in on the record 106 percent booked during World War Two.

Donald Trump has pressured the U.S. Federal Reserve to cut its interest rate faster and more drastically, insisting that would lower borrowing costs. He said the government would save $900 billion a year in interest charges if the Fed cut its rate by three full percentage points, a reduction unheard of in living memory.

Trump’s figure assumes borrowing costs would decline proportionately as soon as the central bank lowered its rate. However, because most current debt carries fixed

interest rates, any newly lowered rates would have to remain in place for years or decades to make a notable difference, the *WSJ* pointed out.

An easier way for the government to lower its interest costs would be to shift the balance of securities it issues, using more short-term debt and lessening its long-term exposure. Also, the treasury could wait to issue longer-term bonds when interest rates are at rock-bottom, as they were during the COVID War.

Pressuring the Fed to chop its rate can actually raise the rate over time, Robin Brooks, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, told the *WSJ*. Aggressively holds borrowing rates low can fan fears of inflation, which can become a self-fulfilling prophecy and force the Fed to hike its rate to rein inflation back again.

"It's really, really important to have an independent central bank," Brooks said. "Over time, the credibility you build through that is how you ensure lower borrowing costs."

TREND FORECAST: *The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reports that the U.S. debt level will continue to rise. At the end of this year they forecast the federal deficit will increase by nearly $2 trillion.*

And as we have reported, the true national debt level is far beyond $37 trillion being reported. As noted by AI overview, "Broader measures that include unfunded liabilities for entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare push the total figure much higher.

One recent report estimated total federal liabilities at $123.8 trillion, with publicly held debt making up about 62 percent of that total. This calculation includes an estimated $78.3 trillion in unfunded Social Security and Medicare obligations."

Get ready for the U.S. government to do all it can to wipe out the debt by issuing a digital coin to replace the dollar, pushing up gold prices and saying that Fort Knox is flooded with enough gold to cover out debt... or anything else they may invent to wipe out the debt crisis.

And on a serious down note, as Gerald Celente has noted, "When all else fails, they take you to war," as they did during the Great Depression with WWII and the Dot.com bust which preceded the War on Terror.

WHY FED'S RATE CUT WON'T AFFECT MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

The U.S. Federal Reserve has cut its interest rate four times in the last 12 months, taking it from 5.5 percent to 4.5, an 18-percent drop. However, over the same period, the average interest rate on the fixed-rate, 30-year mortgage has actually risen by about 2 percent, from 6.09 percent a year ago to 6.26 last week.

Why is that?

The answer is that the Fed's interest rate applies overnight to short-term loans, not mortgages.

Instead, mortgage rates shift with changes to the rate of return on 10-year treasury notes. Lenders see 10 years as the typical length of time a homeowner remains in a house before moving or refinancing.

The 10-year's yield also benchmarks the interest rate offered to investors who buy bundles of mortgages as long-term investments, known as mortgage bonds or mortgage-backed securities (MBS).

Those bond yields are unlikely to decline much for the foreseeable future.

Issuing bonds and notes is how the federal government borrows money. With the federal deficit rising relentlessly, the treasury will have to borrow more and more to pay the government's bills. As more federal securities flood the market, every new bond and note becomes worth less as their numbers multiply.

To entice investors—especially now that worries are mounting about the U.S.'s financial future—the government has to offer higher rates of return.

“We would argue that if the Fed simply does what the market expects, mortgage rates will not fall materially,” Morgan Stanley’s analysts wrote in a recent note.

Still, the central bank has some cards to play in helping to determine the cost of a mortgage.

For example, in the 2008 Great Recession, the Fed bought billions of dollars’ worth of mortgage bonds and MBS to boost their value to investors who underwrite mortgage loans. The Fed’s action helped stabilize the crashing housing market.

Conversely, when the central bank began hiking interest rates in 2022 to combat inflation, it gradually withdrew from the mortgage bond market, causing mortgage interest rates to rise less rapidly.

“The bottom line for home buyers and investors is that the coming direction of mortgage rates is subject to a host of varied and unpredictable forces,” analyst Telis Demos wrote in a 19 September *Wall Street Journal* essay. “The Fed is just one of them.”

TREND FORECAST: *The U.S. federal debt is continuing to mount; neither political party is willing to stop borrowing and spending. As the debt mounts, the treasury will issue more bonds that will have to offer higher yields to persuade investors to own them.*

Increasingly, lenders and governments will be offering special programs, especially for first-time and lower-income households, enabling people now shut out of the market to buy homes.

Home ownership is a cornerstone of the American Dream. Just as important, the construction, mortgage lending, and real estate industries are a cornerstone of the U.S. economy and have powerful leverage over legislators and the financial industry.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT

WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT

The labor market continues to see layoffs as companies cut budgets and AI takes over human jobs.

As Banks continue to Go Bust, Ocean First Bank, SoftBank Group and ScotiaBank all announced layoffs across divisions.

In the gaming industry, Nintendo of America is laying off about 200 customer service contractors as it outsources customer support to Brazil, Argentina and Nicaragua.

Maryland lost another 2,500 federal jobs in August, the second month in a row that the state has led the nation in federal job losses, according to numbers released Friday by the Maryland Department of Labor. In Oregon, employers have reported more than 11,000 layoffs since the start of last year.

The job cut trend will increase this year as we have detailed in this and previous **Trends Journals**.

This is week 148 that we have been reporting on the latest round of job cuts.

Government Layoffs:

- Department of Homeland Security – 725 layoffs in its Office of Intelligence & Analysis
- U.S. Army – 6,500 active-duty pilots, flight crews, and helicopter maintenance jobs in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 as it moves toward unmanned drones.

Bank/Financial Layoffs:

- Canada's Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions – Layoffs possible
- OceanFirst Bank – 114 layoffs
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers – 60 partners and 1,500 staff in its Middle East
- ScotiaBank – Layoffs across multiple divisions.
- SoftBank Group – 20 percent of its Vision Fund team

Layoffs:

- Accelore Amazon distributor – 214 in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area after Amazon cancels contract.
- AGC Biologics – 278 layoffs
- Algoma University – 50 to 75 layoffs due to a steep drop in international student enrollment.
- Arsenal Biosciences, Inc. – 100 layoffs
- Arvinas pharmaceutical company – 15 percent of staff
- BHP coal miner –750 layoffs in Queensland, Australia and suspending operations at one of its coal mines.
- Blue Ridge Power – 517 layoffs
- Bosch – Significant layoffs possible

- Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) – 680 layoffs and closing some plants in South Africa
- Comcast – Planning job cuts in January at its connectivity and platforms unit that houses its Xfinity internet, mobile and pay television business
- Edwards Vacuum – 140 layoffs
- Gardner Cryogenics – 14 layoffs
- Google – 200 contractors
- John Deere – 141 layoffs in Des Moines and Waterloo, Iowa
- KIXE PBS Station (Redding, Calif.) – One-third of staff
- Lionsgate Alternative Television – 50 layoffs
- Michigan State University – Number of layoffs not provided
- Nexstar Media Group – 12 layoffs at The Hill publication
- Nintendo of America – 200 customer service contractors
- Olo, provider of restaurant online ordering and payment systems – Several layoffs as the company transitions to new ownership
- Poundland (United Kingdom) – 100 layoffs
- Procter & Gamble – Possible large-scale layoffs by 2027
- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 5 layoffs
- Rolling Stone – Some layoffs
- RTI International – 120 layoffs
- Seattle Children's Hospital – 154 layoffs
- Sky (United Kingdom) – 600 layoffs
- Spirit Airlines – 1,800 flight attendants
- Standard BioTools – 50 percent of staff
- X4 Pharmaceuticals – Layoffs possible
- Zip Recruiter – 80 layoffs in Israel

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS TRENDS

The economic landscape has presented an array of challenges that will profoundly affect the business community this year.

Closures continue to hit the retail and restaurant industry as chains and mom-and-pop shops shut their doors due to rising costs and decreased consumer spending. Salad and Go is closing 41 restaurants in Texas. Game Stop, which closed nearly 600 stores last year, will close more stores this year. The Petco pet store chain will close 25 stores.

Bankruptcies:

- Banner's Hallmark
- CVS' Omnicare unit
- Publisher's Clearing House

Closures:

- Belzoni's Catfish Cafe (Fort Worth, Texas)
- Birdie G's (Santa Monica, Calif.)
- Bodycare (United Kingdom) – Closing 30 stores and laying off 235 people
- Boston Whaler – Closing Flagler Beach plant
- Buffalo Public Schools – Possible closure of two schools
- Burger Antics (Brookfield, Ill.)
- Burlington Trailways – Closing multiple offices
- Campo Verde Mexican restaurant (Arlington, Texas)
- Canada Greener Homes Loan program
- Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream (Madison, Wis.)
- Copper Cup coffee shop (Lancaster County, Pa.)
- Game Stop – Closing several stores this year

- Harlem Furniture – Closing plant in Lombard, 35 layoffs
- Hotel Havana (San Antonio Texas)
- Idea's Music and Books (Honolulu, Hawaii)
- J&R Vacuums and sewing (Bismarck, N.D.)
- Jipp Salvage Shop (Davenport, Iowa)
- Kyrene School District – Possible closure of up to nine schools
- My Buddy's Place (Bucksport, Maine)
- PDQ Chicken – Closing 20 percent of locations which will be rebranded as Saucy locations under Yum Brands
- Petco – Closing 25 stores
- Pinellas County Schools Florida – Possible school closures
- PosiGen – Ending operations in Connecticut, 78 layoffs
- Providence St. Vincent – Closing its Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- Royal Docks Brewing Co.
- Rusty Bucket – Closing Greater Cincinnati location
- Salad and Go – Closing 41 restaurants in Texas
- Seattle's PBS station – Ending production, 17 layoffs
- Slices from DaVinci's (Montclair, N.J.)
- The AMP Room bar (San Antonion Texas)
- The Beer Store (Ontario, Canada) – Closing an additional seven stores, bringing the total number of stores closed to 69.
- The Woody on Main (Columbia, S.C.)
- Valley Forge Military Academy
- Veritas Gateway to Food and Wine (Ellisville, Mo.)
- Vibez Brunch Bar and Grill (Macon, Ga.)
- Willow River and Houlton Elementary Schools (Wisconsin) – Possible closure

MAJOR U.S. FIRMS RUSH TO BORROW IN EUROS

Sales of euro-denominated bonds by U.S. companies—including Alphabet, Fiserv, PepsiCo, Verizon, and Visa—have notched a record $100 billion this year through mid-September as European interest rates remain attractive and the dollar loses its luster, Reuters reported.

In comparison, such sales totaled a little more than $78 billion in all of last year, according to data service LSEG.

Alphabet raised about €7 billion euros in a May bond sale, the same month that Fiserv issued €2.175 billion worth of bonds. Also in May, Pfizer sold €3.3 billion in securities in Europe. In July, Verizon collected €2 billion through sales of seven and 12-year notes.

Earlier this year, IBM tapped Europe's markets in a bond sale worth €3.5 billion.

"There is a wall of currency ready to be deployed into European credit," Morgan Stanley Matteo Benedetto at Morgan Stanley wrote in a note. He helps U.S. companies arrange bond sales in Europe.

"Behind those inflows, there is a broader trend of asset reallocation into euros and potentially away from the dollar," he added.

Another enticement for American companies: they have routinely been able to issue bonds with maturities as far away as 20 years instead of remaining within the usual five- to 12-year norm.

That has been possible because European investors believe the U.S. economy will continue to grow faster than Europe's in the years ahead. Also, the weaker dollar

enables every euro to buy more “dollar-value,” Giulio Baratta, co-chief of corporate debt capital markets at BNP Paribas, told Reuters.

The dollar has given up 14 percent of its value against the euro this year. The euro was worth $1.17 in trading last week and some analysts think the spread will grow to $1.20.

The shift to euro-based borrowing is likely to continue, analysts told Reuters. The interest and currency exchange rates are expected to remain favorable, although they said the trend is too young to proclaim a permanent shift away from the American buck.

European investors are taking advantage of the Americans’ arrival to diversify their own holdings beyond Eurocentric assets, Reuters noted.

"It doesn't necessarily mean 'don't buy U.S. corporates', but having the opportunity to diversify away from U.S. dollar assets into euro assets is something that investors are looking to do," Connor Olvany, a portfolio manager at L&G Asset Management, said to Reuters.

TREND FORECAST: *The flow of European capital to U.S. companies further drains needed investment from a region still in a tenuous post-COVID, post-inflationary recovery.*

While Europe’s investors profit, European businesses will see a smaller pool of funds available to them to use to rebuild, innovate, hire, and lead the continent away from recession.

This indirectly puts more pressure on cash-stressed governments to pick up any resulting slack in job creation and capital investment. The need has not arisen yet but if American companies continue to lure away Europe’s capital, businesses eventually will look to governments to replace the missing investment funds.

CHINA CEMENTS ITS PLACE AS WORLD'S LEADING EV MAKER

Because of their innovations in manufacturing, domestic access to raw materials, and the ability to turn out new models in record time, Chinese automakers now sell more than half of the electric passenger vehicles (EVs) bought worldwide.

Generous government subsidies allow the car companies to sell their EVs for thousands less than those made in the U.S. and Europe, even as Western nations pile new tariffs on Chinese exports.

In addition, the Chinese models often have more high-end features and longer-range battery packs than EVs made elsewhere.

Tariffs have slowed China's EV sales in Europe and the U.S., but in the domestic market in 2024, EVs outsold internal combustion vehicles for the first time. This year, domestic brands are claiming three-quarters of EV sales.

In Thailand, Chinese EVs accounted for 93 percent of EV sales and 78 percent in Indonesia.

Last year, the European Union slapped tariffs as high as 45 percent on Chinese EVs. Negotiations are ongoing, but meanwhile China's carmakers continue making inroads there. BYD, China's leading EV maker, doubled its sales in April from a year earlier, surpassing Tesla for the first time.

Chinese auto companies and battery makers are building their own factories on the continent, in some cases claiming and refurbishing plants once occupied by Europe's own car builders.

While sales regulations and high tariffs still bar Chinese EVs from North America, the vehicles are becoming steadily more popular in Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

TREND FORECAST: *By resisting instead of embracing the groundshift to EVs, Germany and the U.S. have permanently surrendered leadership in the global auto industry to China.*

As we have said before, the global auto business is becoming homogenized. Western car companies have made partnerships, joint ventures and other kinds of agreements with Chinese counterparts, giving them access to leading-edge tech that they never had before.

As a result, China's lead in auto and manufacturing technology will mean less because EVs built in one place will contain ideas, technology, and know-how pooled by companies around the world. That knowledge and skill will be shared, but companies will still build cars tailored to their own markets.

Those collaborations with Chinese companies will give their Western counterparts some degree of leverage to persuade Beijing to be less restrictive in exporting critical minerals and other materials necessary to build EV batteries and motors.

ARGENTINA'S CENTRAL BANK RESCUES PESO AMID POLITICAL CRISIS

On 17 September, Argentina's central bank sold 53 million U.S. dollars and used the proceeds to buy pesos. That took about 78 billion pesos out of circulation.

The bank's mission was to raise the value of the peso, which had fallen close to the bottom of the window of value within which the government allows it to trade, currently about 1,475 pesos to the dollar.

The band was set five months ago as part of Argentina's bailout agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It was the bank's first intervention since president Javier Milei loosed the peso to trade at the behest of market forces rather than assigning it a specific value.

Milei took office in December 2023, elected on the promise of drastic economic reforms. He implemented several, including free-market reforms and austerity measures. While causing a measure of turmoil, the steps did begin to improve the economy. However, his popularity suffered because of sudden, sharp disruptions to the status quo.

His administration also has been damaged by a corruption scandal involving Milei's sister, who also is his chief of staff. At the same time, the country's GDP retreated 0.1 percent in the second quarter compared to the first.

The series of adversities led Milei's party to a sharp, shocking defeat in last month's local election in Buenos Aires, the nation's capital with a population of three million. The result bodes poorly for the party in next month's midterm elections.

The peso's value has slid by 12 percent over the past 30 days as investors rethought their optimism about Milei's economic prowess, especially after the central bank bungled the July curtailment of some short-term lending instruments.

Before trading dollars for pesos, the government raised interest rates and bank reserve requirements, which not only failed to strengthen the peso but also weighed on economic activity.

"The government is running out of tools to defend its exchange rate regime," economist Amilcar Collante at La Plata National University, told the *Financial Times*. "It is sort of trapped."

The central bank has a limited supply of hard currency, such as dollars. Further sales of it to prop up the peso likely would harm Milei's plan to entice foreign investment and end the need for future rescues from the IMF, analysts said.

The government is facing deadlines in 2026 to repay loans. The rates of return on those loans are rising as bondholders grow concerned about the government's ability to pay its bills. The spread between the yield on U.S. treasury securities and Argentina's dollar-based bonds has now yawned to 11.7 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *After Milei became Argentina's president in December 2023, gasoline prices doubled, inflation shot up to 211 percent, and the currency crashed. Milei said it was part of his plan to save the country from an economic catastrophe.*

In "Argentina's Inflation Passes 211 Percent as Milei Enacts Tough Measures" (14 Jan 2024), we warned that Milei had about six months to show a measurable improvement in Argentinians' lives before the public would turn against him.

Then in "Investors Warm Up to Milei's Tough Love in Argentina" (27 Feb 2024), we reported that "investors may be warming to Milei's ideas, but unions and regional governors have not. Protests are on the rise, especially after indications that 60 percent of Argentines now live below the poverty line."

In May 2024, the country's transport workers staged a one-day strike to protest Milei's austerity measures after the country's manufacturing and construction industries slumped in the year's first quarter, validating our six-month window for Milei to show results.

The country's economy has struggled since then and, based on the results of the Buenos Aires vote, in next month's midterm elections Argentinians are likely to declare themselves done with Milei's showy antics and poor outcomes.

If Milei's party loses, the country will be thrown into political uncertainty that would lead to additional and probably protracted economic chaos and cause the IMF to review its agreement with the country.

CANADA CUTS INTEREST RATE BY A QUARTER POINT

For the eighth time since May 2024, the Bank of Canada (BoC) has cut its policy interest rate. The bank's governing council took off a quarter point. That halved the rate from 5 percent in May 2024 to 2.5 percent now, its lowest in three years.

The cut was supported by all of the council's seven members.

It was the bank's first rate reduction in six months. Canada's economy is teetering on the edge of a recession under pressure from Donald Trump's tariffs. Partly as a result, in August the ranks of Canada's jobless workers numbered the greatest in nine years, not including the COVID year of 2020.

The number of open jobs posted tumbled to its lowest since 2018 in this year's second quarter.

Upward pressures on the country's core inflation rate have "dissipated," BoC governor Tiff Macklem told a press briefing. The government's decision to repeal most retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods "will mean less pressure on the price of these goods going forward," he added.

Bank officials showed "a clear sense that the balance of risk had shifted," he noted. "Tariffs are weakening the Canadian economy."

Macklem offered no guidance on future rate cuts, saying only that the bank will operate on a shorter-than-usual time horizon and will act quickly if the economy deteriorates. Economists in a *Wall Street Journal* poll expect at least one more rate cut this year.

The country will avoid a recession this year, the BoC projects, with GDP growing 1 percent. “It’s not going to feel good [but] it is growth,” Macklem said.

TREND FORECAST: *Whether Canada can avoid a recession will depend in large part on its scramble to find markets other than the U.S. for its exports. At the same time, it will continue negotiating with the Trump administration for lower tariffs and lean on its business partners in the U.S. to lobby Trump and his advisors to cut the import fees.*

SWISS BANKS SUCCEED IN SETTLING PAYMENTS USING A BLOCKCHAIN

Three Swiss banks have successfully made actual payments from bank deposits via a public blockchain, the Swiss Bankers Association said on 16 September.

The payment was another part of an ongoing feasibility study by Swiss banks PostFinance, Sygnum Bank, and UBS of a blockchain-based payment system.

In the test, bank deposits were converted into “tokens” that could be transferred electronically through a blockchain ledger. In the new experiment, bank clients paid for transactions by sending tokens from their banks to other banks on the blockchain.

"Our tokenized deposits can be used across different banks, which is something that was not there yet," Thomas Frei, Sygnum’s chief of product innovation, told a press briefing.

JPMorgan has tokenized deposits, too, Frei acknowledged, but they can be used only within that one bank.

"Basically, we launched a kind of new form of payments on the blockchain, which is an alternative to stablecoins," Frei added. Stablecoins are digital currencies the value

of which is tied to that of an underlying fiat currency, such as the Swiss franc or U.S. dollar.

A blockchain-based payments system would process payments instantly instead of waiting for banks to update their systems, typically an overnight procedure.

TRENDPOST: *The bank association did not offer a timeline for when blockchain payments might be ready for customers to use. But as we have long noted, the world will keep going from dirty cash to digital trash and Central Bank Digital Currencies will be the fake currencies backed by nothing and printed on nothing... along with stablecoins, cryptocurrencies and other made up fake money of the world.*

PUTIN MULLS TAX HIKE ON THE RICH AS THE WAR ECONOMY TIRES

On 18 September, Russian president Vladimir Putin hinted he might be ready to raise various taxes, especially on wealthy Russians, as the country's war-weary economy shows signs of strain.

A draft budget to be presented to Russia's rubber-stamp parliament on 29 September is expected to include a rise in the value-added tax, equivalent to a sales tax, Reuters reported.

The increase would be enough to keep the deficit from deepening and maintain the government's cash reserve, persons familiar told Reuters.

Russia's economy is projected to grow only about 1 percent this year, despite massive military spending, compared with 4.3 percent last year.

Instituting a luxury tax or raising the tax rate on stock dividends is "reasonable" during the war, Putin told a meeting of parliamentary leaders, the sources said. However, the

finance ministry has warned that higher taxes on stock investment proceeds would repel investors.

"In the United States, during the Vietnam War and the Korean War, that's exactly what they did," Putin reportedly told the group. "They raised taxes specifically on people with high incomes."

Putin promised these would be the last tax increases until at least 2030. On 5 September, he urged his government to promote productivity gains in place of tax increases.

Russia enacted a progressive income tax in 2021 and this year raised the rate for the highest earners.

Officials are discussing another new idea that would protect the country's budget from shifts in global oil prices and the impact of Western sanctions on Russian fuel exports.

Beginning in 2026, the government will reduce the price above which oil revenue is diverted into a financial reserve fund by $1 a year. The price bar is now $60 a barrel, so the new rule would cut that to $55 in 2030.

"To make our finances more resilient, we are proposing a reduction in dependence on various constraints, whether price-related or volume-related, in the budget's reliance on oil and gas revenues," finance minister Anton Siluanov told a recent financial conference.

In the past, the mechanism has helped the government budget stand up under Western sanctions and several economic reversals.

This month, the Russian government's oil and gas revenue is expected to be about 23 percent below those of a year ago because global oil prices have fallen and the ruble is stronger now, Reuters calculated.

The government's fiscal reserve fund can be used to cover budget deficits. It now holds the equivalent of about $48.25 billion. This year, the government plans to drain

about $5.39 billion from it to cover a portion of the budget shortfall, expected to exceed 1.7 percent of GDP.

TREND FORECAST: *Putin is aware that raising taxes on a population already strained by inflation running above 8 percent and a shortage of consumer goods caused by resources diverted to the military and the war is a greater-than-usual political risk.*

So Putin is doing what much of the public around the world wants: Tax the rich! Indeed, as evidenced by the New York City mayor's race, Zohran Mamdani is way up in the polls because he is in favor of taxing the rich and giving more social services and benefits to the working class.

TOP TRENDS: ANOTHER GOLDEN YEAR FOR GOLD

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *As* ***Trends Journal subscribers*** *well know, we have forecast the downside and upside of gold. For more information on where gold is going and why, please see this issue's ECONOMIC UPDATE.*

GOLD'S RALLY IS THE BEST IN 46 YEARS

The value of gold has rocketed up 40 percent this year, more than during the Great Recession or the COVID War, *The Wall Street Journal* noted, with futures up more than at any time since 1979's global energy crisis set off runaway worldwide inflation.

The metal reached a record $3,682.20 on 15 September and traded at $3,683 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on the 19th.

Part of the reason, in addition to ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Mideast, is the world's move away from the dollar.

The U.S. cut off Russia from the international clearinghouse for interbank transactions. That introduced an element of instability into the world's financial system. Central banks and the Chinese government began shifting more of their reserves out of dollars and into gold.

This year, Donald Trump's tariff war has roiled global trade, slowed the U.S. economy, and threatens to do the same worldwide. U.S. inflation is on the rise again after falling sharply for more than two years.

Trump has now made U.S. economic statistics unreliable and is threatening the independence of the U.S. Federal Reserve, a cornerstone of the global economy.

As a result of the turmoil, the dollar has seen its worst half of a year since the 1970s, the *WSJ* said. Investors have fled the dollar, pouring their assets into something more likely to hold value. Hello gold.

Retail investors have joined the stampede. In the U.S., gold-focused exchange-traded funds have jumped 43 percent in value this year. March and April, the months in which Trump's tariff announcements were prominent, were two of the three biggest months for net inflows to the funds since at least 2014, the *WSJ* reported.

Gold got another boost over the summer as the Fed signaled it would cut interest rates. As interest rates fall, interest-bearing investments lose some of their allure. Gold has been appreciating far faster than government bonds.

Also, with inflation rising, corporations are likely to face higher borrowing costs and lower profits, making their stocks and bonds less attractive.

"With Trump in the U.S. and Putin in Russia, a lot of people think, 'is this going to get worse?'," Sean Hoey, managing director of IBV International Vaults London, said to the *WSJ*.
IBV's clients have been filling the company's underground safe deposit stores with gold, he said.

"The majority of people are buying, thinking [the price] will go up more, rather than selling," he added. IBV is planning to double its storage space to accommodate gold bugs.

CHINESE GOLD MINDER PREPS $3.2-BILLION IPO

Zijin Mining, a major Chinese gold mining company, is preparing a public stock offering in Hong Kong that will spin off its overseas assets into a separate company.

Gold's recent record price is expected to bring Zijin at least $3.2 billion, which will fund the company's ongoing domestic expansion.

Zijin will issue about 349 million shares at HK$79.51 each, the *Financial Times* reported. The spinoff, to be called Zijin Gold, includes assets in central Asia, Australia, Colombia, Ghana, and Serbia.

The IPO will be the world's biggest since May, when CATL, China's leading battery maker, made a $5-billion offering, also over Hong Kong's exchange.

Private equity firms Blackrock, Oaktree, and Shroders, and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund have collectively pledged to buy about $1.6 billion worth of the shares.

The island city's Hang Seng index has been among the world's most lucrative this year as a wave of Chinese tech companies have gone public on the Hang Seng. Foreign investors can put money into mainland Chinese companies through Hong Kong's stock market.

The new entity will use the IPO's proceeds to pay the final costs of acquiring a mine in Kazakhstan, develop a Ghana site, and buy into a mine in Suriname, a South American country, Zijin announced.

Gold's price has rocketed up 40 percent this year and, in 2024, supplanted the euro in central banks' apportionment of reserve assets.

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GETTING BIGGER

As we detail in this and previous **Trends Journals**, investment into the private equity business and Merger and Acquisition activity have been in decline. However, with the U.S. Federal Reserve now cutting interest rates that trend will reverse itself. The lower U.S. interest rates decline the cheaper it is to borrow money. And with more cheap money there will be more M&A activity. Here is the latest round of M&A's:

BIGGEST RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE BROKER GETS BIGGER

Compass Inc., the U.S.'s largest residential real estate broker with $231billion in sales last year, is buying Anywhere Real Estate to create a combined company with an enterprise value of about $10 billion.

Anywhere, based in New Jersey, operates in 44 states and owns the brokerage brands Coldwell Banker, Corcoran, and Sotheby's International Realty. Anywhere booked sales of $184 billion in 2024.

Anywhere shareholders will receive 1.436 shares of Compass Class A common stock, which values a share at about $13.01. The stock traded at $7.07 at closing on 19 September.

The deal will leave Anywhere stockholders owning about 22 percent of the new entity. Compass's current shareholders will own the balance of 78 percent.

Compass stockholders will own about 78% of the company and Anywhere investors will hold roughly 22%. Compass secured a commitment for $750 million in financing from Morgan Stanley as part of the deal.

By buying Anywhere, Compass expands its international presence and makes its technology available to more brokerage firms and customers.

The purchase “evolves Compass into a unified operating system for residential real estate and creates a better, simpler experience for home sellers, homebuyers, and the trusted real estate professionals who advise them,” Compass CEO Robert Reffkin told a press briefing.

Recently, Compass’s Reffkin has expanded the brokerage by snapping up rivals. Last year, the firm agreed to buy Christie’s International Real Estate and other businesses in a transaction valued at $444 million, helping expand Compass’s reach into the franchise business.

Reffkin will lead the newly combined company.

Real estate brokerages have had a hard few years as home prices have shot up and interest rates along with them. That has left many firms in the industry ripe for plucking.

In 2024, Compass paid $444 billion to take over Christie’s International Real Estate and some other firms. Earlier this year, Rocket Cos. bought Redfin, a major online brokerage, for $1.75 billion and pocketed Mr. Cooper, a mortgage servicing business, for $9.4 billion.

ROCHE BUYS DRUG RESEARCH FIRM FOR UP TO $3.5 BILLION

Swiss drugmaker Roche Pharmaceuticals is buying 89Bio, a research firm developing a treatment for a fatty liver disease caused mainly by obesity.

With the rise of Ozempic, Wegovy, and other weight-loss drugs, Roche has been looking for a niche in that market, which fetched $26.3 billion last year and has been projected to soar as high as $412 billion by 2035.

“We intend to be a leader in the cardiovascular space and being a player in the obesity space is important to make that happen,” Roche CEO Teresa Graham told the *Financial Times*.

Roche’s purchase price is $14.50 a share in cash now, a premium of 45 percent to 89Bio’s 17 September closing prices. Roche will pay up to an additional $6 a share if 89Bio’s drug meets certain performance measures over time.

The obesity market “will become far more patient-driven than we’ve seen so far and that’s what our portfolio [of drugs] is aiming to address in coming years,” Graham added.

In December 2023, Roche acquired Carmot Therapies for $3.1 billion. The company is testing obesity treatments. In March this year, Roche bought the rights to an obesity drug created by Zealand Pharma for $5.3 billion.

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM BUYS OFFICE DEPOT RETAIL CHAIN

Private equity firm Atlas Holdings has agreed to buy ODP Corp., the owner of the Office Depot office supply chain, for $1 billion and take it private.

Atlas will pay $28 a share for the company, 34 percent more than its closing price on 19 September.

Office Depot has more than 850 stores spread across 44 U.S. states. Its revenue has declined steadily over the past 10 quarters as more shoppers buy their supplies online.

SMOTRICH: ISRAEL IS WORKING WITH THE U.S. TO DIVIDE GAZA, WILL BE A 'REAL ESTATE BONANZA'

Bezalel Smotrich, the Israeli finance minister and top "settler," said at a conference that Gaza "is becoming a real estate bonanza" and there are already discussions in place with the U.S. about "how to divide the percentages of the land in Gaza."

"The demolition phase is always the first phase of urban renewal," he said, according to Haaretz. "We did that, now we need to start building."

He said, "This plan was built by the most professional people there are. We are checking how this becomes a real estate bonanza—I'm not joking—and pays for itself."

Breaking the Silence, the anti-war Israeli veterans' organization, posted in response: The truth is out: Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Gaza is a real estate pearl, and that talks are underway with the U.S. on how to divide the land. This is why the assault on Gaza continues. Not Hamas, not hostages, not security - only messianic agendas and real estate.

TRENDPOST: *The goals in Gaza have been clear, ever since Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law and member of the Friends of Israel Defense Forces national board, said in 2024: "Gaza's waterfront property could be very valuable," and "It's a little bit of an unfortunate situation there, but from Israel's perspective I would do my best to move the people out and then clean it up," he said. " (See "AS WE REPORTED LAST MARCH, TRUMP'S SON-IN-LAW KUSHNER BOASTED TO EXPEL PALESTINIANS FROM GAZA AND DEVELOP 'WATER-FRONT' PROPERTY" 11 Feb 2025 and "TONY BLAIR INSTITUTE CONTRIBUTED TO POST-GENOCIDE GAZA PLANS THAT CONSIDERED A 'TRUMP RIVIERA,' MUSK 'SMART MANUFACTURING ZONE': FT" 8 Jul 2025.)*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a security cabinet meeting earlier this month that U.S. President Donald Trump encouraged him to go all out in Gaza and to avoid seeking "partial deals" with Hamas to receive some of the remaining 50 hostages—20 of whom are believed to be alive—still inside the enclave.

"Forget the partial deals. Go in with full force. Finish it," Netanyahu said, quoting Trump, according to The Jerusalem Post.

The Israeli military has been carrying out a new slaughter of Palestinians and destruction in Gaza City and told hundreds of thousands of civilians there—many of whom have been displaced because their homes have been bombed to ruin —to move south once again, which the UN called "incomprehensible."

And the Trump administration which is comprised of pro-Israel Zionist extremists supports the Israeli Genocide with words, deeds, bombs and money and with the support of Congress , they support Israel's goal of creating a Greater Israel, which is why Netanyahu continues to operate with impunity in Gaza.

TREND FORECAST: *Totally forgotten and barely reported by the Presstitute media is the fact that there was a ceasefire agreement made between Hamas and Israel… which Israel violated so that they could keep their genocide war going and their plans to steal the land of Gaza. See:*

- *"HAMAS AGREES TO TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE, NETANYAHU APPEARS TO DISMISS" (19 Aug 2025)*
- *"HAARETZ BLAMES ISRAEL FOR 'DERAILING' GAZA CEASEFIRE—NOT HAMAS" (25 Mar 2025)*
- *"TRUMP'S GREEN LIGHT FOR ISRAEL TO ABANDON CEASEFIRE ENABLED NETANYAHU TO CARRY OUT STARVATION CAMPAIGN" (29 Jul 2025.)*

SAUDI ARABIA SIGNS MILITARY PACT WITH NUCLEAR-ARMED PAKISTAN

Saudi Arabia signed a military pact with Pakistan that means both countries will use all "defensive and military means" if the other is attacked—meaning that Riyadh will be protected by a nuclear umbrella provided by Islamabad —all while Washington become more isolated and weakened in the region as it supports Israel's relentless wars and destabilizing attacks—like this month's bombing in Doha.

A senior Saudi official told the *Financial Times*: "We hope it will reinforce our deterrence—aggression against one is aggression against the other. This is a comprehensive defense agreement that will utilize all defensive and military means deemed necessary, depending on the specific threat."

The deal says that any "aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both."

***TRENDPOST**: Israel's decision to carry out a bombing attack on Hamas negotiators in Doha was the latest example of how Tel Aviv has never been interested in a diplomatic resolution to the Gaza genocide to obtain its hostages still in Hamas possession. (See "IF THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO SURVIVE IT MUST FREE ITSELF OF ISRAEL" 16 Sep 2025, "RUBIO GIVES ISRAEL THE GREEN LIGHT TO RAZE GAZA CITY" 16 Sep 2025 and "FORMER ISRAELI ARMY COMMANDER: THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 200,000 PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES IN GAZA, AND ISRAEL FOUGHT WITH 'GLOVES OFF'" 16 Sep 2025.)*

The attack killed six but did not kill any member of the team. The casualties included civilians and the son of Khalil al-Hayya, the chief negotiator, the report said.

Fawzi Barhoum, an official from Hamas, said in a speech that the team had been in Qatar to discuss the latest ceasefire deal offered by the White House. One Hamas official gave a televised address and called the bombing an assassination of the entire negotiation process."

"We affirm that the U.S. administration is a full accomplice in this crime," the official said, according to The Times of Israel.

Seismic Shift?

Arnaud Bertrand, the entrepreneur and commentator on economics and geopolitics, posted on X: "I don't think I'm exaggerating by saying that this truly is the US's Suez moment."

"The symbolic is extraordinary: Saudi Arabia was in many ways THE poster child of US client states. If they no longer trust American security guarantees, why should anyone else?" he posted. He continued: "The timing is probably no coincidence, just days after Israel's strike on Qatar, the ultimate proof of the worthlessness of US protection."

He concluded: "Hard to see how that doesn't permanently kill any chance of Israel-Saudi normalization: Pakistan does not recognize Israel either and with this

alliance the Saudis now can resist US pressure as they don't solely depend on them for their defense."

Mohammad Marandi, the Iranian professor, told **The Trends Journal** in a message that he did not fully agree that the move is a seismic shift.

"Pakistan is poor and its armed forces are focused on India," he said. "The Saudis are focused on Yemen."

TREND FORECAST: *Scott Ritter, the former UN weapons inspector, told* ***The Trends Journal*** *that the military deal between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has been years in the making.*

The Financial Times reported that the Israeli strike in Doha "shocked" Gulf leaders and said the "implications were clear: if Israel and the US were reshuffling the Middle East order, Saudi Arabia was keen to shore up an older alliance with a nimble friend."

Joshua White, a fellow at Brookings who has worked in both India and Pakistan, told the paper that the military deal may not be a specific response to the Doha bombing, but said it was likely a response to the "broader tectonic shifts in the region. Both countries have significant incentives to be diversifying right now, because of the behavior of the United States—it's a moment where they both need to create options for themselves."

Trump has proven that the U.S. has only one true ally in the Middle East: Israel.

Watch for other countries in the region to hedge their bets as Trump continues to place his loyalty to Israel above all.

But nothing will really change until the Arab oil rich nations unite against Israeli genocide and impose and oil embargo as they did in 1973 in opposition to U.S. support for Israel during the Yom Kippur War.

IDF KILLS NEARLY 3,000 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA WHO WERE SEEKING AID, PROBE SAYS

A newly released investigation by *The New Humanitarian* found that the IDF has killed nearly 3,000 Palestinians who had been seeking humanitarian aid, shedding new light on the horrible conditions inside the enclave as Israel pushes its forces deeper into Gaza City.

Common Dreams reported that the investigation said a total of 2,957 Palestinians were killed seeking aid, and another 19,866 were injured. *The New Humanitarian* determined the number by open-source data. The report said the death toll included about 1,000 who were "at or near" aid sites that the U.S.-Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation operated.

Adil Haque, an international law professor at Rutgers, told *The New Humanitarian* that the killings are "not isolated incidents," but are rather "a pattern, and reflect policy and an acceptance on the part of the state that this should continue and definitely."

The investigation found that there are patterns that show how the IDF "has used the attacks on people seeking aid as a tool for different purposes at different points in the war: deadly crowd control, forced displacement, and the destruction of the collective ability of Palestinians and Gaza to survive."

TRENDPOST: *The New Humanitarian's report followed increased scrutiny for Israel as it carries out its U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza. (See "TRUMP GIVES NETANYAHU GREEN LIGHT TO KEEP GAZA GENOCIDE GOING" 9 Sep 2025, "IT'S FINALLY 'OFFICIAL': ISRAEL COMMITTING GENOCIDE IN GAZA" 9 Sep 2025, "TOP ISRAELI CALLS FOR STARVING POPULATION TRAPPED IN GAZA" 26 Aug 2025 and "FAMINE DECLARED IN GAZA AS ISRAEL RAMPS UP ITS GENOCIDE WAR" 26 Aug 2025.)*

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a group that the UN relies on for hunger data, said last month that Gaza City and the surrounding area are officially experiencing a famine.

Palestinians were observed fleeing from Gaza City last week as Israel escalated its killing spree during its new offensive.

Montaser Bahja, a former teacher sheltering in western Gaza City, told The New York Times that the population is "terrified."

"Death would be more merciful than what we're living through," he said.

The city is in tatters. Israel said it struck 850 targets to soften the city prior to the invasion, according to the paper.

The BBC ran a story two weeks ago that was hardly mentioned in the Western media.

The story focused on how many of the mercenaries working at GHF sites are members of a U.S. biker gang "with a history of hostility to Islam."

The report said there are 10 members of the Infidels Motorcycle Club who are working as security at these GHF sites.

Edward Ahmed Mitchell, deputy director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), told the British broadcaster that putting members of the Infidels biker club in charge of "delivering humanitarian aid in Gaza is like putting the KKK in charge of delivering humanitarian aid in Sudan."

"It's bound to lead to violence, and that's exactly what we've seen happen in Gaza," he said.

***The Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the GHF and these death traps that are called distribution centers. Many Palestinians find themselves so hungry that the risk of getting shot at these aid sites is something they are willing to accept. (See "NOTHING TO SEE HERE: WITKOFF APPROVES GHF SITES AFTER PR VISIT" 5 Aug*

2025, "FORMER GHF GUARD RECALLS COLLEAGUES GUNNING DOWN STARVING PALESTINIANS" 29 Jul 2025, "IDF TROOPS ORDERED TO SHOOT INTO STARVING CROWDS AT GHF DISTRIBUTION CENTERS, REPORT SAYS" 1 Jul 2025, "BIDEN PIER 2.0: MILITARIZED HUMANITARIAN AID DISTRIBUTION CENTERS IN GAZA BECOME MURDER MILLS" 10 Jun 2025 and "ISRAEL'S WILLFUL IMPEDIMENT OF FOOD ACCESS IN GAZA MAY CONSTITUTE A WAR CRIME: UN'S TURK" 10 Jun 2025.)

Jake Wood, the former head of GHF, resigned, stating that the organization will not be able to carry out the principles of "humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence."

Critics say the foundation is a "militarized aid scheme" that helps Israel carry out its mission to ethnically cleanse the enclave of Palestinians by forcing them into small areas if they want to eat the bare minimum amount of food.

***TREND FORECAST**: As conditions in Gaza continue to deteriorate and the U.S. continues to support Israeli genocide that has created the humanitarian disaster, the death toll at these sites will climb.*

*Scott Ritter, the UN weapons inspector, told **The Trends Journal** last week that Palestinians in Gaza have no good options. He said they will likely either be killed and the lucky ones will be sent to a new country to live as refugees.*

NETANYAHU ALIENATES HIMSELF FROM TOP GENERALS OVER HIS RECENT MILITARY ACTIONS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been emboldened by the full support of the Trump administration, has isolated himself from top generals in the IDF over recent decisions to invade Gaza City and bomb Hamas negotiators in Doha, according to a report.

The *New York Times* reported that military leaders in Israel see that the prime minister has assumed a hardline stance on essentially every issue when it comes to Gaza—even his refusal to negotiate in good faith to end the genocide in return for the remaining hostages still in Hamas captivity. (It is believed that the group has 50 hostages, including 20 believed to be still alive.)

Yohanan Plesner, the president of the Israel Democracy Institute, told the paper that Israel finds itself in a very "unique era in the sense that decision-making on core issues of national security is essentially concentrated in the hands of one person."

He told the paper that these big decisions have traditionally been "taken in consensus between the top political and top military-security leadership. So this norm has been violated—the chief of staff has been forced to take his soldiers into a battle that he doesn't necessarily believe in."

Lt. Gen Eyal Zamir, the IDF chief of staff, yelled during a cabinet meeting earlier this month that the Netanyahu government should agree to a ceasefire deal with Hamas that would return the hostages, according to *The Times of Israel.*

The paper, citing a report from Channel 13, said Zamir told the officials that he had called up reservists to carry out the orders, but asked why Israel does not have negotiating teams seeking a deal.

“Why do we always have to depend on [the U.S.]?” he reportedly asked. The paper said Zamir turned to David Barnea, the Mossad head, and asked, “Why are you sitting here? Why are you in Israel? Go bring us a deal!”

Zamir has expressed concerns that his military is stretched too thin and indicated that the force is tired after nearly two years in Gaza.

The *Times* reported that Zamir and Barnea sided with each other during the internal debate about attempting to strike a Hamas delegation in Doha earlier this month, which drew criticism from Arab countries, and even prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to warn Israel to be careful.

TRENDPOST: *Subscribers to* ***The Trends Journal*** *know that Netanyahu never had any intention of making the return of the hostages his top priority. (See “NETANYAHU PRAYS WITH RUBIO AT WESTERN WALL, SAYS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER” 16 Sep 2025, “NETANYAHU BECOMES MORE BLATANT IN HIS MURDER SPREE, NOT EVEN PRETENDING TO TALK ANYMORE” 16 Sep 2025, “FORMER BIDEN STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ADMITS THAT NETANYAHU OBSTRUCTED CEASEFIRE DEALS” 26 Aug 2025, “‘FAR RIGHT’ ISRAELIS KILL CEASEFIRE DEAL WITH HAMAS” 26 Aug 2025 and “HAMAS AGREES TO TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE, NETANYAHU APPEARS TO DISMISS” 19 Aug 2025.)*

The IDF has commenced its ramped-up assault on Gaza City and the government’s position is that Hamas needs to fully surrender and return all hostages. Netanyahu told a security cabinet meeting earlier this month that Trump fully endorsed Israel’s actions, and warned against accepting any kind of partial deal.

The Times reported that such a deal would be even more elusive because it is something that Hamas is unlikely to ever agree to.

Despite Trump’s endorsement of the strategy, Barnea, Zamir, and Tzachi Hanegbi, Netanyahu’s national security advisor, were opposed to the idea, The Times reported.

Zamir has stressed that the priority should be the return of the hostages, but Netanyahu's supporters in the Knesset want to see the complete defeat of Hamas and see that as the top goal of the genocide.

The Times said recent polls in Israel indicate that the public wants the hostages to be returned and the war to end.

Hamas released a photo that showed the 47 hostages who are still in captivity and the caption read: "Because of Netanyahu's intransigence and Zamir's submission, this is a farewell photo at the beginning of the operation in Gaza."

The UK, Japan, Canada, and other major nations have spoken out against the decision to invade Gaza City because of the humanitarian toll that is almost certain, given that there were a million people huddled in the city before the invasion.

The Times reported that Trump has recently become a bystander, "neither urging Israel to show restraint nor giving it his approval."

Daniel C. Kurtzer, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel under President George W. Bush, told the paper that Trump does not seem to have any kind of strategy, even though he clearly wants to see the hostages returned.

"He threatens Hamas, but those threats are interpreted by Netanyahu as a green light to keep going. Thus, Trump's diplomacy is working against itself. Notwithstanding this, Trump is better positioned than anyone else to bring the war to an end. But he needs to do more than make public statements," Kurtzer said.

***TREND FORECAST:** Trump and his Zionist administration—as did Genocide "I am a Zionist" Joe Biden's regime—will continue to support Israel every step of the way. If powerful military and security officials in Israel become bolder in their criticism of Netanyahu, that may result in a change in policy—but it is unlikely.*

GAZA DEATH TOLL

The death toll in Gaza reached 65,283 and more than 166,575 Palestinians have been injured as Israel ramps up the genocide with its new offensive in Gaza City, which has drawn criticism from traditional allies, like the UK.

While Israel carries out its punishment campaign inside the enclave, Paris announced that it will recognize a Palestinian state. French President Emmanuel Macron made the announcement at the UN in New York a day after Canada, Australia, and the UK said they would recognize a Palestinian state.

The Times of Israel reported that the U.S. was the only major world power that joined Israel in boycotting the conference because their argument was that state recognition after the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack would essentially be a reward for terrorism.

“Nothing justifies the ongoing war in Gaza. Nothing,” Macron said, according to the paper. “On the contrary, everything compels us to end it immediately.”

Antonio Guterres, the UN’s secretary general, said he was disappointed that the U.S. did not attend the conference and said, “Statehood for Palestinians is a right, not a reward.”

Axios obtained a copy of Kamala Harris’s new book, “107 Days” that mentioned former President Joe Biden’s approach to the Gaza genocide. She wrote that her former boss was not capable of sympathizing with the Palestinians.

“I had pleaded with Joe, when he spoke publicly on this issue, to extend the same empathy he showed to the suffering of Ukrainians to the suffering of innocent Gazan civilians. But he couldn't do it: While he could passionately state, 'I am a Zionist,' his remarks about innocent Palestinians came off as inadequate and forced,” she wrote.

WEDNESDAY: Israel killed another 98 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and another 385 were injured as the IDF carried out its new offensive in Gaza City.

The Gaza Health Ministry said the number may not be reliable given that so many of the victims are under the rubble of collapsed buildings and cannot be reached.

Anadolu Ajansi reported that seven more Palestinians were killed trying to obtain humanitarian aid and four more starved to death—bringing the total to 432, including 146 children.

The IDF announced that it struck 150 targets across Gaza City in the past two days. The BBC reported that one of the targets was the al-Rantisi children's hospital in the city. A source told the outlet that there were no injuries in the strike, but air conditioners and water tanks were badly damaged.

Fikr Shalltoot, Gaza director of the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians, said the hospital is the "only specialist facility for children with cancer, kidney failure, and other life-threatening conditions."

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., issued a press release identifying the conflict in Gaza a "genocide."

He said Israel had the right to defend itself after the Hamas attack on 7 October 2023, but "over the last two years, Israel has not simply defended itself against Hamas. Instead, it has waged an all-out war against the entire Palestinian people."

He continued, "I recognize that many people may disagree with this conclusion. The truth is, whether you call it genocide or ethnic cleansing or mass atrocities or war crimes, the path forward is clear. We, as Americans, must end our complicity in the slaughter of the Palestinian people."

THURSDAY: Israel killed another 42 people in Gaza—including a family of four that was huddling in a house in a refugee camp in the central part of the enclave.

Anadolu Ajansi, citing medical sources, said 26 Palestinians were killed in Gaza City amid Israel's new offensive. The report said that a widespread blackout made it challenging to understand the conditions inside the besieged city.

The U.S. vetoed a resolution in the UN that demanded an immediate "unconditional and permanent ceasefire" inside the enclave.

Morgan Ortagus, the U.S. representative, told members of the Security Council that Washington's veto should not be surprising because the resolution "wrongly legitimizes the false narratives benefiting Hamas, which have sadly found currency in this Council."

"This resolution also refuses to acknowledge and seeks to return to a failed system that has allowed Hamas to enrich and strengthen itself at the expense of civilians in need," she said. (The U.S. was the only member of the Security Council to oppose the resolution.

Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the UN, also rejected the resolution and said Tel Aviv would continue its fight against Hamas and protect its citizens, "even if the Security Council prefers to turn a blind eye to terrorism."

Israel announced that four soldiers were killed in the southern part of Gaza.

FRIDAY: Israel killed another 44 in Gaza as Israel promised to use "unprecedented force" on Gaza City.

Abu Azzoum, a journalist for Al Jazeera, said the military operation that is unfolding inside the city is "completely destroying entire blocks, and there are still families who are trapped under the debris of targeted houses, particularly in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood."

WSWS reported that more than 450,000 Palestinians have fled the city since August. (The city was once home to a million Palestinians—many of whom had been displaced several times before.)

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), an independent violence-tracking organization, determined that 15 out of 16 Palestinians killed by the IDF in Gaza have been civilians, *The Guardian* reported.

“Since 18 March, Israel claims it killed more than 2,100 operatives, though Acled data indicates that the number is closer to 1,100, and includes Hamas’ political figures, as well as fighters from other groups,” according to the report.

Wesam Afifa, the former executive director of Hamas’s Al Aqsa TV, told *The New York Times* that the IDF has been successful in smashing Hamas strongholds inside the enclave “in the conventional military sense.”

“What remains today are small, mobile resistance cells fighting in guerrilla style,” he said.

The paper said there have been 70 IDF deaths in Gaza since the start of the year.

SATURDAY: The IDF killed another 91 Palestinians in strikes that targeted schools-turned-shelters, tent camps, and a truck that Al Jazeera reported was attempting to leave Gaza City amid the new onslaught.

The strike on the truck killed four people and left the bodies of the victims “scattered in the street,” the report said.

Dr. Mohammed Abu Salmiya, the director of the Al-Shifa Hospital, said he lost six members of his family in the Israeli onslaught, and realized his loss when their bodies were taken to his hospital while he was working a shift.

He told CNN: “This is the family home where we live. My brother, two of my brother’s sons, my nephew’s wife, and two of their children were martyred.”

The death toll included 38 Palestinians killed in Gaza City. One of those killed included Dr. Moatasem Mustafa Abdelhamid Ayad who suffered severe burns when the IDF bombed his home in Tel al-Hawa, which IMEMC reported is just west of Gaza City.

SUNDAY: The IDF killed another 60 Palestinians, including 19 women and children, according to the enclave's health ministry.

The deaths were largely the result of airstrikes on Gaza City and the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza. These strikes resulted in the deaths of 40 people. There was an IDF strike on Gaza City's Daraj neighborhood that resulted in the deaths of eight Palestinians, according to *The Times of Israel.*

The UN's Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said a total of 1.9 million Palestinians have been displaced inside the enclave, according to the *Palestine Chronicle.*

Pope Leo XIV spoke out against the forced displacement of Palestinians.

"Together with the pastors of the churches in the Holy Land, I repeat that there is no future based on violence, forced exile, and revenge," he said.

MONDAY: The IDF killed another 40 Palestinians in Gaza.

The health ministry in Gaza said the Al-Rantisi Children's Hospital and the Eye Hospital in Gaza City are no longer functioning after Israeli attacks, according to Drop Site News.

"The occupation is deliberately and systematically targeting the health care system in the Gaza Strip as part of its policy of genocide against the Strip," the ministry said, according to the report.

The IDF announced the death of Maj. Shahar Netanel Bozaglo, 27, a company commander in the 7th Armored Brigade's 77th Battalion, according to The Times of Israel. He was the first recorded casualty for Israel in the new Gaza City offensive.

TUESDAY: At least 15 Palestinians have been killed in the early morning hours, and dark plumes of smoke could be seen billowing from Gaza City, according to Al Jazeera.

Trump is expected to address the UN General Assembly after he meets with Arab leaders on the sidelines to talk about the future of Gaza.

NBC News reported that Hamas sent a note to Trump, offering to return half of the remaining hostages in exchange for a 60-day ceasefire. (There are believed to be 50 hostages still inside Gaza, including 20 believed to be still alive.)

POLITICAL GASLIGHTING: THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST PLAYBOOK FOR DISMANTLING THE CONSTITUTION

by John & Nisha Whitehead

What we are witnessing is not a government of the people, by the people, and for the people; it is a government over the people.

Call it what it is: political gaslighting—the regime says one thing while doing the opposite, and insists on the citizenry's trust while dismantling the very checks and balances that make trust possible.

So when the powers-that-be claim to be protecting the Constitution, they're dismantling it at every turn. In this way, the mechanisms of constitutional

government—separation of powers, federalism, due process, and the Bill of Rights—are being hollowed out in plain sight.

Although this dismantling did not start with President Trump, it has accelerated beyond imagining.

What was once a slow bleed is now a hemorrhage—and it is not random. The damage is unfolding on two parallel tracks: a steady, methodical, bureaucratic erosion (rule changes, executive orders, new databases) paired with shock-and-awe surges (National Guard deployments, mass round-ups, headline-grabbing prosecutions).

The words may say "freedom" and "order," but the deeds smack of tyranny. Attorney General Pam Bondi vows to punish "hateful" speech even as the administration normalizes hateful rhetoric and violent imagery. Vice President JD Vance promises to "go after" those with a "leftist" ideology while preaching free-speech absolutism for allies.

The Trump administration denounces "hate speech" even as it excuses and downplays the Jan. 6 riots; pledges fiscal restraint while shoveling billions into surveillance, prisons, and domestic deployments; wraps itself in law-and-order while tolerating lawlessness by cronies; sermonizes about faith and morality while normalizing cruelty as governance; and peddles outrage over waste while spending lavishly on the trappings of office.

Rights are framed as absolute for friends and privileges for critics. That is the opposite of constitutional government, which holds everyone—especially those in power—to the same rule of law, applied evenly.

If the government can police ideas, deploy troops at home, run dragnets by algorithm, disappear people into distant prisons, build spectacle cages, and amass power in one office, then no American is safe—including those who cheer these efforts today.

If you believe in limited government, equal justice, and due process—whatever your party—these double standards should alarm you most, because the precedents being cheered today will be wielded against you tomorrow.

What follows is a running ledger of the gaslighting playbook and its constitutional costs.

The Gaslight: “We’re Restoring the Constitution.”
Reality: The “temporary” powers created after 9/11 have hardened into a permanent police-state architecture.
The Cost: A police state.

The Gaslight: “We Value Law and Order.”
Reality: The administration deployed Marines and the National Guard into American streets to police protests protected by the First Amendment.
The Cost: The death of Posse Comitatus.

The Gaslight: “We Defend Free Speech.”
Reality: Dissent is criminalized, expressive conduct is relitigated, and disfavored groups face terror labels and IRS pressure. Fold in Bondi’s vow to target “hateful” speech and Vance’s pledge to eradicate “leftist ideology,” and power slides from punishing unlawful acts to policing ideas.
The Cost: A weaponized First Amendment.

The Gaslight: “We’re Protecting You from Extremists.”
Reality: Speaking truth to power is reframed as a security risk.
The Cost: Dissent rebranded as extremism.

The Gaslight: “We’re Ending Federal Censorship.”
Reality: Trump’s order to “end federal censorship” asserts sweeping control over how agencies interact with media platforms and broadcasters, rebranding ordinary outreach and fact-checking as First Amendment violations.
The Cost: The state as speech referee.

The Gaslight: “We Use Smart Tech, Not Dragnet Surveillance.”
Reality: The administration is fusing government databases and outsourcing “intelligence” to private vendors to create a domestic intelligence system that presumes guilt by data trail.
The Cost: Probable cause replaced by algorithms.

The Gaslight: “We’re Tough on Crime.”
Reality: Florida’s “Alligator Alcatraz” detention site whetted the government’s appetite for scaled-up incarceration for anyone accused of a crime.
The Cost: The death of due process.

The Gaslight: “We’re Compassionate, Not Cruel.”
Reality: A July 2025 executive order encourages states to funnel the homeless into institutions and mental-health courts.
The Cost: Bureaucratic coercion over compassion.

The Gaslight: “We’re Streamlining Government.”
Reality: The administration has pressed an aggressive unitary-executive theory to encroach on independent agencies.
The Cost: Checks and balances gutted.

The Gaslight: “We’re Keeping America Safe Overseas.”
Reality: Killing by assassination, not authorization. Twice in recent months, U.S. forces have launched unannounced attacks on Venezuelan boats, killing crews without warning or due process, on the mere assertion that they were drug traffickers.
The Cost: War powers and judicial oversight bypassed.

The Gaslight: “We’re Fixing Wasteful Spending.”
Reality: Having poured billions into surveillance, prisons, and domestic deployments, the “police-state budget” unravels the economy while eroding liberty.
The Cost: A debt-funded police state.

Many who cherish ordered liberty, limited government, fiscal restraint, and constitutional morality would normally recoil at these tactics under any other administration, so why not now?

Principles should not change because the party in power has changed, and yet that’s exactly what continues to drive the double standard.

If there’s a constitutional scorecard, “we the people” are on the losing team right now.

The First Amendment is buckling as protest is chilled, expressive conduct is targeted, opponents are threatened with terror labels, and the Executive Branch expands control over the speech ecosystem.

The Fourth and Fifth Amendments have been weakened by AI surveillance and cross-agency fusion that normalize suspicionless tracking, while offshore detention and coerced commitments compromise due process.

The Eighth Amendment is mocked by harsh, theatrical detention regimes. Federalism and the Tenth Amendment give way when federal troops step into local policing.

Separation of powers erodes as an inflated unitary-executive theory encroaches on independent agencies.

War powers are skirted by extrajudicial killings abroad. And fiscal responsibility is inverted as surveillance and prison appropriations swell while liberty contracts.

If you wouldn't trust your worst political enemy with these weaponized tools, you shouldn't trust your favorite politician with them either.

Our job as citizens is not to trust the government but to bind it down with the Constitution.

This should never be a right-vs-left debate; it's the State vs. your liberty.

As I make clear in my book Battlefield America: The War on the American People and in its fictional counterpart The Erik Blair Diaries, if we let emergency rule become ordinary rule—military troops as beat cops, protest as crime, data as warrant, assassination as policy, money as politics—there won't be a Constitution left to defend.

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War on the American People are available at www.amazon.com. Whitehead can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Nisha Whitehead is the Executive Director of The Rutherford Institute. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author[s] and do not necessarily reflect the views of ***The Trends Journal****.*

THE BENEFITS OF MOLECULAR HYDROGEN AND HOW INHALATION DELIVERS THEM

by Dr. Joseph Mercola

Story at-a-glance

- Tyler LeBaron, founder of the Molecular Hydrogen Institute, shares insights about molecular hydrogen's science, delivery methods, and clinical use
- Molecular hydrogen is the smallest molecule in the universe. It moves easily through your body and reaches areas that other compounds cannot, including your cells, mitochondria, and the blood-brain barrier
- Unlike conventional antioxidants, hydrogen functions as a redox modulator. It restores balance between oxidative and reductive stress, and selectively neutralizes harmful hydroxyl radicals

- How you take hydrogen makes a difference. When hydrogen gas is dissolved in water, it stays only briefly. You need to drink hydrogen-rich water right after preparation, or the gas escapes and the benefits are lost
- Inhaling hydrogen gas provides a more direct route. It quickly raises levels in your blood and tissues in ways drinking hydrogen water cannot, which makes inhalation the stronger systemic option

Molecular hydrogen is a diatomic gas consisting of two hydrogen atoms. It's known as the simplest and smallest molecule, yet it interacts with biology in ways that larger compounds cannot. Its effects on redox balance, cellular signaling, and mitochondrial health have drawn significant attention from researchers.[1] While much about its effects remains to be explored, the findings so far suggest that molecular hydrogen plays an important role in human health and longevity.

One of the leading experts in this field is Tyler LeBaron, MSc., Ph.D., founder of the Molecular Hydrogen Institute.[2] He has spent more than 16 years investigating molecular hydrogen and its applications. In this interview, he returns as a guest to share what his research has revealed so far and discusses new developments designed to make molecular hydrogen therapy safer and more effective.

The Science of Hydrogen

When we talk about hydrogen in a therapeutic sense, we are referring specifically to molecular hydrogen. To understand why this form is unique, it helps to first look at the basic chemistry of hydrogen itself. This context clears up common confusion and lays the foundation for how molecular hydrogen works in the body.

> • Hydrogen exists in different forms — Hydrogen is the first element on the periodic table, the lightest and most abundant in the universe, and it readily combines with other elements to form other compounds.[3] As LeBaron explained:
> "We are talking about the hydrogen molecule or hydrogen gas. And so, if we go back to elementary school, we know that hydrogen is No. 1 on the periodic table of elements, and that hydrogen can react with a lot of elements. If it reacts with oxygen, you can get water, H2O. If it reacts with nitrogen, you can get ammonia.

If it reacts with carbon, you can get methane or carbohydrates, for example. You can also have a hydrogen atom that reacts with another hydrogen atom, and you get a hydrogen molecule, a molecule of hydrogen, which we call molecular hydrogen. And it's designated as H2 or H2 gas."

• One of the defining features of molecular hydrogen is its size — Because it's so small, molecular hydrogen has the ability to move quickly and freely through your body. Once introduced, it spreads evenly and penetrates barriers that stop most other substances. According to LeBaron:

"The neat thing about hydrogen is, because it is so small … it's able to penetrate the cell membrane and enter the mitochondria, the nucleus, everywhere, easier than anything else, like the blood-brain barrier."

• Hydrogen's bioavailability sets it apart — Many drugs and supplements are limited by poor absorption, breakdown in the digestive system, or the inability to reach sensitive areas like the brain. Bioavailability is one of the biggest challenges in developing effective therapies, yet hydrogen's simple structure allows it to bypass these obstacles and reach parts of the body where it has the greatest effect.

"[I]n cell culture, you can find a compound that maybe has dramatic effects, exactly what you want, but there's no way you could actually get that molecule into the mitochondria, let alone the cell, let alone bypass the liver and the digestive juices of the stomach and the bacteria and be transported through the blood and everything. But hydrogen, it has no problem."

Hydrogen Acts as a Redox Modulator

Cellular health depends on redox homeostasis — the balance between oxidation and reduction inside your cells. You're likely already familiar with oxidative stress, which occurs when reactive oxygen species (ROS) build up faster than they're neutralized in the body, causing damage to DNA, proteins, and lipids. Less widely recognized, but just as damaging, is reductive stress.

• Reductive stress disrupts cellular energy — Reductive stress occurs when there's an excess of electrons in your mitochondrial electron transport chain (ETC), disrupting the balance and leading to decreased energy production and increased free radical formation.

Both forms of imbalance may occur simultaneously, even within different compartments of the same cell, creating what researchers call redox dysregulation. Hydrogen plays a unique role in restoring this balance and influencing the systems that depend on it.

• Hydrogen restores balance instead of overcorrecting — Unlike conventional antioxidants that indiscriminately neutralize ROS, hydrogen adapts to cellular needs. It lowers oxidative stress where overload is high while preserving ROS where signaling is essential. This precision makes hydrogen a regulator of redox homeostasis rather than a blunt scavenger.

• Mitohormesis strengthens mitochondria over time — By allowing a mild increase in mitochondrial stress, molecular hydrogen stimulates renewal and strengthening of these organelles, which improves their ability to generate adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the energy that fuels your cells. Instead of simply reducing stress, hydrogen helps train your cells to become more resilient and efficient over time.

• Hydrogen also shows selectivity in the radicals it interacts with — It does not react with every oxidant, but it does target the highly destructive hydroxyl radical, one of the most damaging ROS in biology. By neutralizing hydroxyl radicals, molecular hydrogen reduces the harm they cause while leaving other signaling molecules intact. “That's really where hydrogen shines, because hydrogen is a redox modulator,” LeBaron noted.

When reductive stress persists, it sets off a chain reaction that contributes to chronic illness. To understand how this hidden process unfolds inside your mitochondria, check out “Reductive Stress and Mitochondrial Dysfunction — The Hidden Link in Chronic Disease.”

More About Hydrogen’s Wide-Ranging Effects Across the Body

When you introduce molecular hydrogen into your system, it engages pathways that extend far beyond simple free radical scavenging. Its influence reaches multiple systems, showing how a single molecule supports resilience across the body.

• Gene expression changes — Hydrogen’s benefits extend beyond its presence in the body because it influences gene activity. A central pathway is Nrf2, which governs the production of detoxification enzymes and antioxidant defenses.[4]

- Endogenous antioxidant production — Your body is equipped with its own antioxidant defenses, and hydrogen helps strengthen them. Glutathione, the master antioxidant, and superoxide dismutase, the enzyme that converts harmful superoxide radicals into safer molecules, both increase in response to hydrogen exposure.[5]
- Hormone and gut-brain signaling — Hydrogen increases secretion of ghrelin, a stomach-derived hormone that not only regulates appetite but also protects neurons and supports recovery after injury. This highlights hydrogen's ability to work through messenger systems as well as direct redox effects.[6,7]
- Microbiome balance — Research suggests hydrogen fosters beneficial bacterial growth, reduces endotoxin burden, strengthens gut barrier integrity, and promotes metabolites that support colon and systemic health.[8] Our gut bacteria naturally produce hydrogen gas during fermentation, and people with healthier microbiomes tend to generate more.[9]
- Systemic signaling through the liver — Because absorbed hydrogen passes through the portal vein, it directly influences the liver, prompting the release of beneficial hepatic growth factors.

Dive deeper into the other benefits of molecular hydrogen in "How Molecular Hydrogen Helps Reduce Inflammation and Support Cellular Repair."

Hydrogen Delivery Methods Explained

Molecular hydrogen enters your body in different ways, and how you take it determines both how much reaches your tissues and which pathways are engaged. The two primary methods studied are drinking hydrogen-rich water and inhaling hydrogen gas. Both have benefits, but they work through different routes and deliver different concentrations.

- Hydrogen water — LeBaron explained that when hydrogen gas is dissolved in water, it becomes temporarily stable in solution. The challenge is that hydrogen is a light and highly diffusive gas, so it escapes quickly. For this reason, hydrogen-rich water needs to be consumed soon after it is prepared, or the concentration will fall back to baseline levels.

Once swallowed, hydrogen is absorbed in the stomach and gut, enters the portal vein, and is delivered directly to the liver. From there, it enters the venous blood, passes through the heart, and is pumped to the lungs. At this stage, about 90% of the hydrogen is exhaled. Even though most of it leaves your body this way, significant effects still occur because hydrogen stimulates the pathways discussed above before it dissipates.

• Inhalation therapy — Inhaling hydrogen gas offers a more direct route of administration and makes it possible to deliver hydrogen molecules throughout the body in ways drinking hydrogen water cannot. Because the gas is taken in through the lungs, it enters circulation more effectively and reaches tissues at higher levels than water alone.

According to LeBaron, research shows that a minimum of 1% hydrogen in the inhaled air is required to produce therapeutic effects. He refers to this value as the fraction of inspired hydrogen (FiH_2). While 1% is considered the baseline therapeutic threshold, concentrations of 2% are commonly used in research and clinical settings, which remain well below the 4% flammability threshold.[10]

• The effectiveness of inhalation reflects basic chemistry — Tyler explained this using Henry's Law, which states that the amount of gas that dissolves into a liquid depends on the concentration of the gas above it.[11] For example, oxygen makes up 21% of the air, so when water equilibrates with that air, it contains about 8 to 9 milligrams of dissolved oxygen per liter.

Hydrogen is less soluble than oxygen, but the same principle applies — the higher the concentration in the air you breathe, the more hydrogen dissolves into your blood. When you inhale hydrogen at a defined concentration, you maintain this equilibrium and allow enough of the gas to enter circulation to reach therapeutic levels.

Drinking hydrogen water, by contrast, produces only a small, short-lived rise before the gas quickly escapes through the lungs. "In the clinical studies, you need to be about 1% hydrogen gas in the headspace, at a minimum," LeBaron said. "If we do that, we can see therapeutic effects, and we often can see more if you get 2% or 3%."

Both hydrogen water and inhalation offer therapeutic value, but they work through different routes. Understanding when and how each works best helps you decide which approach fits your needs.

What Research Says About Hydrogen Inhalation Therapy

LeBaron also discussed experimental and clinical research that supports molecular hydrogen therapy. Over the last several decades, studies have moved from preliminary laboratory observations into human trials, laying a foundation for its role in medicine.

• Early foundations — The first suggestion that hydrogen might have medical value appeared in 1975, when researchers published a study in Science on hydrogen and cancer. They found that at very high concentrations, hydrogen could suppress tumor growth in mice. However, the levels required were impractically high and flammable, making this approach unsafe for use in humans.[12]

For many years, the idea lay dormant until a pivotal 2007 study published in Nature Medicine[13] reignited scientific interest. This experiment tested hydrogen gas at only 2% concentration, well below the flammability threshold. In an animal model of stroke, inhaled hydrogen dramatically reduced brain damage. When the brains were examined, tissue injury in untreated animals was extensive, while those given hydrogen showed much smaller areas of damage. Notably, the study compared several concentrations — 1% hydrogen was helpful but less protective, while 4% proved less effective than 2%. This highlighted that more is not always better, and that hydrogen has an optimal therapeutic window.

• Stroke trials in humans — Building on these results, clinical researchers tested hydrogen in people experiencing acute stroke. In randomized studies, patients who received hydrogen inhalation showed better neurological recovery compared to those given standard treatment alone.[14]

In some cases, hydrogen outperformed existing drugs, improving both survival and functional outcomes. These results suggest that hydrogen offers a valuable addition to stroke care by limiting the cascade of oxidative damage that follows interrupted blood flow to the brain.

• Cardiac arrest studies — Another landmark came with a multicenter clinical trial published in eClinicalMedicine, a Lancet-affiliated journal.[15] In this study, patients who had suffered cardiac arrest and were resuscitated were given hydrogen inhalation during their critical care. After three months, survival was

roughly 20% higher in the hydrogen group compared to controls, representing a relative increase of around 40%.

Importantly, no adverse effects were reported. The patients tolerated hydrogen well, and the treatment was easy to integrate into intensive care settings. These findings have made cardiac arrest one of the most promising indications for hydrogen therapy, showing both clinical relevance and life-saving effects.

Why Delivery Method Matters for Hydrogen Inhalation

As research has moved forward, one of the clearest lessons has been that how hydrogen is delivered is just as important as the concentration itself. While studies confirm its safety when used properly, certain approaches can compromise effectiveness or even create preventable hazards.

• Nasal cannula limitations — One of the most common ways people attempt to inhale hydrogen is through a nasal cannula, but this method often fails to deliver a therapeutic dose. According to LeBaron:

“When you put that nasal cannula in your nose, that assumes a couple of things. It assumes that you're breathing through your nose. Twenty to 30% of the population is not breathing enough through their nose, so they're not ever going to get enough hydrogen gas into their body.

So, you have people who use machines and don't get benefits potentially because they never even got the molecular hydrogen into their body. And that's going to be true even if the flow rate is super high, because they're just mouth breathing. They're not nasal breathing. So that's going to be one issue.

No. 2 is the fact that even if the machine has a relatively high flow rate, it could be beneficial for one person. Let's say it's around 200 or 300 milliliters per minute for one person. If it's a small individual, then they're breathing just normal, and they're fine, and they could potentially get to that 1% concentration of hydrogen gas.

But that's not going to be true for somebody else who is larger, and they have a higher sympathetic tone to them, because their ventilation is going to be a lot higher.”

• Explosion risks — While hydrogen itself is safe at therapeutic levels, it becomes flammable when it mixes with oxygen above 4% concentration.

Machines that do not carefully regulate hydrogen concentration can inadvertently cross into this dangerous range. If hydrogen accumulates in a poorly ventilated space, even a small spark will ignite it.

• Documented accidents — LeBaron described several incidents in Asia where improper use of hydrogen inhalation devices led to real harm. Some clinics and wellness centers used high-flow mixtures of hydrogen and oxygen delivered through nasal cannulas.

In reported cases, sparks or static discharge ignited the gas, causing explosions that resulted in facial fractures and serious injuries. In one incident, hydrogen appeared to combust internally, underscoring how hazardous poorly designed systems are.

• Safety protocols and research oversight — Because of these risks, hydrogen inhalation studies are bound by strict protocols. Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) require researchers to prove that their methods stay within safe concentrations and that the equipment is incapable of generating explosive conditions.

This is one reason why controlled inhalation devices with precision dosing are important to expanding research. Without such safeguards, scientists could not ethically or legally run trials, and the therapy would remain outside of mainstream acceptance.

By recognizing these risks and learning from past accidents, the field has moved toward safer, more reliable technology. This ensures that hydrogen's therapeutic promise is realized without exposing people to preventable harm.

A New Approach to Safe Hydrogen Inhalation

LeBaron also discussed Inhale H_2, a hydrogen inhalation machine that he helped develop with Alex Tarnava, the inventor of the open-container molecular hydrogen tablets.[16] This machine was designed to address the shortcomings he had observed with earlier devices to make hydrogen inhalation safer, more precise, and more practical for everyday use as well as clinical research.

• How the device manages concentration — Conventional machines often generate hydrogen at concentrations that fluctuate or reach unsafe levels. LeBaron explains that his system addresses this by diluting pure hydrogen into a

safe, steady therapeutic range, eliminating the risk of flammability while ensuring effectiveness.

“This machine, it makes the hydrogen gas in the same way from electrolysis, and then it has an air pump that dilutes the concentration from a hundred percent hydrogen gas down to say 1% to 4%. So, you are going to always be in the therapeutic range. It's never going to be flammable,” he said.

• How the gas is delivered — Standard nasal cannula delivery often mixes hydrogen unevenly with room air, making it difficult to guarantee dosage. In contrast, this system uses an inflatable reservoir bag and mask, which provide a consistent concentration with each inhalation.

“[Hydrogen gas] goes into an inflatable bag, a reservoir. And when you take an inhalation from the mask like this, you can take up to three liters of an inhalation, 100% of your air that you inhaled comes from within the bag. And by doing that, you're going to ensure that all the hydrogen gas is that specific concentration of hydrogen.

This really is what sets everything apart with this machine, is that it has the inflatable bag. And we patented this, and it was a lot of work because you have to make sure that the ratios are going to be exactly right, because you have to make sure that you are not going to be explosive.”

• How it compares in cost — Devices used in clinical or research settings often cost $15,000 to $30,000, limiting broader access, whereas their machine costs around $5,000, making it less costly. As LeBaron summarized:

“So, there [are] three takeaways with the benefits of this. Every inhalation is going to be therapeutic; you can get a precise concentration of hydrogen, and it's never explosive. It's not flammable. You cannot accidentally or intentionally misuse this device that could cause harm.”

If you want to learn more about how the Inhale H_2 system works, check out InhaleH2.com, where the device is currently available for preorder at $1,000 off. To explore the science and application of molecular hydrogen, visit molecularhydrogeninstitute.org. There, you'll find research, video lectures, and a variety of other resources, including different certifications for those interested in working with and administering molecular hydrogen.

How to Start Using Hydrogen Today

Hydrogen therapy may sound complex, but you can begin applying it in simple ways that align with what researchers have found effective. Hydrogen-rich water, particularly from tablets, offers a convenient and effective way to supplement.

- Use pulsed dosing rather than constant exposure — While it seems logical to assume that more hydrogen is always better, continuous exposure to it actually reduces its effectiveness. As such, pulsed exposure to hydrogen is likely more effective than constant administration. This insight has important implications for how to approach hydrogen therapy:
  - Drinking hydrogen-rich water at specific times during the day is more effective than sipping it constantly.
  - Short sessions (one to three hours) of hydrogen inhalation are preferable to longer (more than 20 hours), continuous exposure.
  - Taking breaks between supplementation enhances the body's response when hydrogen is reintroduced.
- Drink hydrogen water immediately after preparation — When using tablets, it's best to drink the water while it's still cloudy, within about 90 seconds of adding the tablet. If you wait too long, the gas will dissipate into the air and the concentration will fall below effective levels. Think of it as something fresh that needs to be used right away, not stored for later.
- Consider daily supplementation for long-term benefits — Because hydrogen has no known toxicity and has been shown to influence fundamental processes like redox balance and mitochondrial function, it can be incorporated as part of a daily routine. Even if you are healthy, consistent supplementation helps maintain resilience and may support energy and recovery.
- Remember hydrogen is a support, not a replacement — It's important to remember that hydrogen supplementation isn't a replacement for a healthy lifestyle. Proper nutrition, regular exercise, quality sleep, and stress management remain the foundations of good health. Hydrogen is an additional support to these core practices.

While molecular hydrogen is not a magic bullet, its ability to help restore cellular balance with virtually no downside makes it a compelling addition to your health

routine. Given my focus on mitochondrial health and energy, I consider hydrogen an important addition to any health optimization plan. To explore this further, read "Molecular Hydrogen — The Powerful Antioxidant You've Never Heard Of."

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Molecular Hydrogen

Q: *What is molecular hydrogen, and how does it work in my body?*

A: Molecular hydrogen is the smallest molecule in the universe, made of two hydrogen atoms. Its tiny size allows it to cross cell membranes, reach mitochondria, and even pass through the blood-brain barrier.

Once inside your body, hydrogen fine-tunes redox balance, activates protective genes, boosts your natural antioxidants, influences hormones like ghrelin, supports a healthy microbiome, and prompts the liver to release growth factors that aid repair and metabolism.

Q: *Is molecular hydrogen safe for me to use?*

A: Yes, hydrogen has been studied for decades and shows no known toxicity. When delivered properly, it has been used safely in both human trials and clinical settings, including stroke and cardiac arrest care. The key is to stay within safe concentrations and use delivery methods that have been validated.

Q: *What is the best way for me to take molecular hydrogen?*

A: You have two main options — hydrogen-rich water and hydrogen inhalation. Drinking hydrogen water is simple and engages pathways in your gut, microbiome, and liver. Inhalation delivers higher systemic concentrations through the lungs and reaches tissues more directly. Both are effective, but they work through different mechanisms.

Q: *When do I drink hydrogen water for the best results?*

A: Hydrogen escapes quickly from water, so you need to drink it immediately after preparation, ideally while the water is still cloudy from the dissolving tablet. Taking it in pulses — one or two glasses at specific times in the day — is more effective than sipping it slowly over many hours.

Q: *How much molecular hydrogen do I need to inhale for it to work?*

A: Clinical studies suggest that inhaling at least 1% hydrogen in the air you breathe is the minimum therapeutic threshold. Concentrations of 2% to 3% are commonly used in research, while staying below 4% to avoid flammability. Short sessions of one to three hours are generally more effective than continuous exposure.

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THE FLUORIDE FRAUD: UNSAFE AT ANY DOSE

by Richard Gale & Gary Null PhD

For more than seventy years, fluoride has been deliberately added to public water supplies on the assumption that it prevents tooth decay. Presented as a safe and cost-effective public health measure, fluoridation has long enjoyed institutional protection from dental and pediatric associations, medical journals, many federal agencies, and town and county public health officials. Yet beneath the seemingly confident assurances lies a troubling reality. The fluoride used in municipal water is not a purified pharmaceutical drug but an industrial by-product of the aluminum and phosphate fertilizer industries. It is an industrial waste so toxic it cannot be dumped in soil or rivers. At certain concentrations, fluoride is more poisonous than arsenic.

Fluoridation has always carried the specter of a grand experiment. Entire populations have been exposed to this chemical without consent. Rarely has there been any transparency about what dose is received and what adverse systemic health effects

may follow. Today, an ever-growing body of scientific studies in peer-reviewed journals links fluoride exposure to serious risks, which include ADHD and lowered IQ in children, thyroid and endocrine dysfunction, bone damage, skeletal fluorosis, and other chronic health conditions. One would think this evidence alone should have been enough to halt fluoridation.

But the story of fluoridation is not simply a matter of medical science and debate. It is a case study in how consensus is manufactured and defended. When dissenting scientists raise legitimate concerns, they are often marginalized. Their findings are delayed or discredited. Their careers are placed at risk. As with other controversies in modern medicine, federal officials and health authorities project a stale air of infallibility. To question them is framed as questioning “science itself.” This hubris, which is echoed in Anthony Fauci’s infamous declaration that “attacks on me are attacks on science”, captures the deeper ethos that has shielded fluoridation from proper scrutiny. The result is that the nation’s fluoridation policy endures not because the evidence is conclusive but because institutional power resists any acknowledgement of error.

This is not new. More than fifty years ago, two courageous scientists--Dr. John Yiamouyiannis and Dr. Dean Burke, a co-founder of the National Cancer Institute, were among the first to publicly challenge fluoride’s safety. They published dozens of papers and testified before city halls, universities, and legislatures to warn against mass fluoridation. Both men were professional friends of mine and both lived to see their warnings drowned out by the powerful weight of the medical establishment and a compromised media hostile to dissent. The establishment declared victory, and fluoridation remained entrenched.

Half a century later, however, the landscape looks different. Independent scientists, medical researchers, environmental advocates, and legal challenges are once again forcing the question: why does fluoridation continue? Why are the voices of caution still dismissed? And what does this tell us about the larger corruption of science when consensus, not sound evidence, is treated as the final arbiter of truth?

This paper revisits the fluoridation controversy as a call to re-examine one of the longest-running human experiments in modern public health.

The introduction of fluoride into the U.S. water supply was less a straightforward public health measure than a convergence of industrial interests, government promotion, and very successful public relations campaigns. Early in the 20th century, dentist Frederick McKay and G.V. Black discovered that many residents of Colorado Springs suffered from mottled and stained teeth. This was later traced in 1931 to fluoride contamination in the town's local water supply. What became known as "Colorado Brown Stain" caused visible dental damage.[1] However, McKay and other investigators noted that affected teeth appeared more resistant to cavities. At the same time, the aluminum and phosphate fertilizer industries faced a growing problem. Their manufacturing plants were producing massive amounts of fluoride waste that posed legal and environmental risks if it were ever to be identified as a public hazard.

The Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) quickly recognized the importance of controlling this environmental narrative. Alcoa's labs confirmed fluoride as the cause of mottled tooth enamel. Company-linked researchers, such as Gerald Cox, began promoting the idea that small amounts of fluoride could prevent cavities. In 1939, Cox publicly proposed fluoridating the nation's water supplies. Cox wasn't a medical expert but an industry scientist working for a company that was deeply threatened by potential liabilities from fluoride pollution. The U.S. Public Health Service soon took up the idea. H. Trendley Dean of the National Institute of Health asserted that "fluoride levels of up to 1.0 ppm in drinking water did not cause mottled enamel; if the fluoride exceeded this level, however, fluorosis would occur."[2] By framing fluoride as beneficial rather than hazardous, the aluminum industry found a way to dispose of its fluoride waste while reshaping public perception.

The campaign for fluoridation quickly gained momentum. In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first American city to fluoridate its water. The experiment was intended to last 15 years, but within just two years, dozens of other communities had followed suit.[3] All the while the Public Health Service and the American Dental Association endorsed water fluoridation in order to turn it into a nationwide publicity effort. This effort was further spearheaded by Edward Bernays, a pioneer of modern public relations and a nephew of Sigmund Freud, who successfully recast fluoride

[1] National Institute of Dental Research. *The Fluoride Story.*
[2] Ibid.
[3] Griffiths J. Fluoride: Commie plot or capitalist ploy? *Covert Action*. Fall 1992;42:30.

from rat poison to necessary health products. As medical writer Joel Griffiths observed, “Almost overnight…the popular image of fluoride, then being widely sold as rat and bug poison, became that of a beneficial provider of gleaming smiles, absolutely safe, and good for children, bestowed by a benevolent paternal government. Its opponents were permanently engraved on the public mind as crackpots.”[4]

Many of fluoride’s strongest opponents were not fringe figures but respected physicians who initially supported fluoridation but later changed their minds. Drs. George Waldbott and Frederick Exner were among the first to document government-industry complicity in hiding fluoride’s hazards. Both doctors risked their careers by going public. Waldbott later reflected that from the very beginning the controversy over fluoridation was “a political, not a scientific health issue.”[5] Nevertheless, their criticisms were drowned out by toothpaste advertisements and public relations campaigns. Looking back, their work, however, foreshadowed later evidence that debunks fluoride’s safety and necessity.

By 1950, fluoridation had become firmly entrenched in the nation’s health psyche. It was supported by government agencies, medical and dental associations, and private industries. But the scientific foundation to support fluoride was far weaker than the public was led to believe. The largest U.S. fluoridation study conducted in the 1980s on nearly 39,000 schoolchildren found no significant difference in cavity rates between fluoridated and unfluoridated communities.[6] Around the same time, a World Health Organization review confirmed that dental decay had declined at similar rates in Western Europe, where nearly all countries rejected water fluoridation. In fact, in some cases, European children enjoyed better dental health outcomes than their American counterparts.[7] Additional studies raised further doubts: a University of Arizona study in 1992 reported that “the more fluoride a child drinks, the more cavities appear in the teeth,” and Native American children on fluoridated reservations were found to have disproportionately higher rates of dental decay and other oral health problems than regions where fluoridation was limited.

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4 Ibid.

5 Waldbott GL et al. *Fluoridation: The Great Dilemma*. Lawrence, KS: Coronado Press; 1978..

6 Sierra Club. Letter to: WK Reilly, EPA. July 21, 1989.

7 Brunelle JA, Carlos JP. Recent trends in dental caries in U.S. children and the effect of water fluoridation. *J Dent Res*. February 1990;69:723–727.

Almost a half-century ago, Drs. John Yiamouyiannis and Dean Burk, former chief chemist at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), released a study that linked fluoridation to 10,000 cancer deaths per year in the U.S. Their inquiry, which compared cancer deaths in the ten largest fluoridated American cities to those in the ten largest unfluoridated cities between 1940 and 1950, discovered a 5% greater cancer rate in the fluoridated areas. Unsurprisingly, the NCI refuted its own findings. To settle the matter, a Congressional subcommittee instructed the National Toxicology Program (NTP) to perform another investigation. That study, due in 1980, was not released until 1990. In the meantime, the EPA raised the standard fluoride level in drinking water from 2.4 to 4 ppm. Critics of the EPA decision charged it with being politically motivated without any concern for public health.

From its inception, the fluoridation movement was shaped by politics and industry interests. Early discoveries about fluoride's toxicity were simply reframed to emphasize marginal dental benefits. Critics were marginalized and health risks minimized. This history reveals that fluoridation was not simply a benevolent public health intervention but, as some early critics charged, a "capitalist-style con job of epic proportions." As Dr. Yiamouyiannis once stated, "We would not purposely add arsenic to the water supply. And we would not purposely add lead. But we do add fluoride. The fact is that fluoride is more toxic than lead and just slightly less toxic than arsenic."[8] Over the past two decades, there has been an expanding body of scientific research raising serious questions about the safety of community water fluoridation and fluoride exposure more broadly. While American health authorities continue to endorse fluoridation as a cost-effective strategy for dental health, studies from across the North American continent and abroad increasingly identify serious risks to neurodevelopment, thyroid function, and overall systemic health. In 2022, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research released a comprehensive report showing that oral health in the U.S. has not improved in 22 years. In fact, it has declined and 70 percent of children and adolescents are now fluoride-overdosed.

The tension between emerging science and an entrenched public health policy that defends fluoridation underscores the urgent need for the medical community and

[8] Yiamouyiannis J. Interview. 1995 Mar 10. His statement is referenced in the Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products. 5th ed. Williams and Wilkins.

health authorities to reexamine fluoride's role in drinking water, consumer dental and other products.

One of the most consistent themes across recent studies is the link between fluoride exposure and adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes. For instance, very recent research this year found associations between early-life fluoride exposure and elevated rates of neurodevelopmental disorders. The authors' conclusions recommend a reassessment of U.S. fluoride exposure limits. Longitudinal research in Canada, such as the MIREC cohort, has also been especially influential in tracing these risks. In 2020, Green, Till, and colleagues reported that prenatal fluoride exposure correlated with increased symptoms of ADHD,[9] and Farmus et al. documented reduced cognitive performance in children at ages three to four linked to higher maternal urinary fluoride levels.[10] Similarly, an Indian study found that Indian children with higher urinary fluoride concentrations displayed reduced memory and learning performance.[11] It is important for us to notice the global consistency in these findings that reinforce the urgent demand to reevaluate fluoride's purported benefits. Together, these studies add to mounting evidence that fluoride is not simply a benign additive; it is a toxic chemical capable of undermining brain development in very scientifically measurable ways.

Parallel to the concerns about neurodevelopmental disorders are findings that fluoride can disrupt thyroid function. Thyroid health is particularly critical during pregnancy when hormone imbalances can impair fetal brain development. One nation-wide analysis reported that fluoridated regions had a higher prevalence of hypothyroidism and suggests fluoride acts as an endocrine disruptor.[12] Complementary evidence comes from the MIREC cohort, which found maternal fluoride exposure associated with altered thyroid hormone profiles in both Canadian and American populations.[13]

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[9] Green R, Till C, et al. Fluoride exposure and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in Canadian children: Findings from the MIREC cohort. *Environment International*, 2020;134: 105229.

[10] Farmus L, Till C, et al. Prenatal fluoride exposure and cognitive outcomes in children at 3–4 years of age in Canada. *Environment International*, 2021;146: 106223.

[11] Saxena S, et al. Fluoride exposure and neurodevelopmental outcomes in Indian children. *Neurotoxicology*, 2022;88: 36–45.

[12] Malin AJ, Till C. Exposure to fluoridated water and hypothyroidism risk in the United States: A county-level analysis. *Science of the Total Environment*, 2021;762: 143092.

[13] Till C, Green R, Flora D, et al. Fluoride exposure and thyroid function among Canadian and U.S. pregnant women in the MIREC cohort. *Environment International*, 2020; 134: 105229.

Earlier reviews also warned that fluoride exposure contributes to thyroid dysfunction and questioned whether the purported benefits of fluoridation outweigh these systemic risks.[14] These studies establish a consistent pattern that fluoride compromises the body's endocrine balance and increases risks not only for thyroid disorders but also for cascading neurodevelopmental effects.

The evidence linking fluoride to learning difficulties further strengthens the case for caution. Barberio et al. analyzed surveillance data from North American children; the researchers found higher fluoride exposure correlated with greater odds of reported learning disability diagnoses.[15] Similarly, a study out of the University of Southern California's School of Medicine analyzed fluoride levels in mother–child pairs at pregnancy and later evaluated the children's behavior after three years. Children exposed to increases in fluoride in the womb were twice as likely to develop neurobehavioral problems including emotional reactivity, anxiety and somatic complaints. When viewed alongside ADHD- and cognition-related findings from Canada and India, these results reveal a broader picture of fluoride's threats to learning capacity, attention, and memory. This convergence of evidence across different populations and methodologies further underscores social concerns that fluoride impairs children's educational and developmental outcomes.

A 2021 meta-analysis on fluoride and bone health revealed a U-shaped risk profile. Although very low levels may provide protection, higher exposures increase fracture risks.[16] With heart disease as the major killer of Americans, a 2022 Spanish study now demonstrates that fluoridated water calcifies and hardens arteries. People with chronic renal disease were observed to be especially at high risk

However, perhaps the most consequential development in recent years is the reassessment of fluoride as a potential human neurotoxin. Drs. Grandjean and Landrigan are leading authorities on developmental neurotoxicology. In their 2023 study published in *The Lancet Neurology,* they determined fluoride now meets the

[14] Peckham S, Awofeso N. Water fluoridation: a critical review of the physiological effects of ingested fluoride as a public health intervention. *The Scientific World Journal*, 2014; 293019.
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[16] Yu X, Chen J, et al. Fluoride exposure and bone health: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Osteoporosis International*, 2021;32(5): 895–904.

established criteria for reclassification as a developmental neurotoxicant.[17] Their review emphasized that while safe thresholds require further refinement, the totality of epidemiological, toxicological and biomolecular evidence aligns fluoride with other federally recognized industrial neurotoxins. This classification has profound implications. It will effectively reframe fluoridation policy as an issue of chemical safety rather than dental prevention.

Despite these warnings, our federal health agencies continue to promote water fluoridation and dental fluoride use. This stance stands in stark contrast to the policies of many other countries. Over the past decade, most of Western Europe, including Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands, has either never adopted or actively phased out community fluoridation programs in favor of alternative dental health strategies. Israel halted fluoridation in 2014, and many Canadian municipalities, including Calgary, Windsor and Waterloo, have put an end to water fluoridation. Meanwhile, China avoids artificial fluoridation altogether due to its already elevated natural fluoride in groundwater. The United States, however, continues to fluoridate nearly three-quarters of its public water supplies despite all of the health indicators and scientific findings pointing to disease risks.

Taken together, this body of research points to a troubling disconnect between the scientific evidence and our nation's public health policies. Given the weight of more recent findings, reassessing exposure limits and halting blanket fluoridation is crucial. More important, prioritizing fluoride's risks to vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and children is urgently warranted. Our government's consistent failure to act has placed public health behind outdated dogma in order to negligently ignore the growing consensus that fluoride poses more harm than benefit in our contemporary society.

Aside from the ever-growing number of scientific studies calling into question fluoride's safety profile, there are numerous documented episodes revealing institutional resistance. This includes suppression of scientific dissent, altering of scientific language, delays in publication of inconvenient findings, legal battles, and

[17] Grandjean P, Landrigan P. Developmental neurotoxicity of industrial chemicals: Update on fluoride evidence. *The Lancet Neurology* ,2023; 22(1): 15–25.

rapid public relations responses aimed at preserving the medical associations' reputations and the status quo of the nation's fluoride policies.

In 1990, a senior science advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), William Marcus, raised concerns about fluoride's health risks and the integrity of EPA's regulatory statutes. Marcus claimed that the agency was ignoring the scientific evidence about fluoride toxicity. His internal criticisms triggered administrative action, which culminated in his termination from the agency. Two years later, an administrative law judge ruled that Marcus's dismissal was a retaliatory act, a pretext for punishing him for dissent, and ordered his reinstatement.[18]

The case is one of the clearest examples in this period of institutional suppression of a dissenting voice on fluoride's risks. It demonstrates that even within the EPA, questioning fluoride's safety standards will incur punitive measures.[19] But the long-term effect was more ambiguous. The EPA remained committed to fluoride policy as is despite many later researchers reporting similar suppressive pressures even as scientific evidence against fluoride accumulated.

Although the William Marcus case is now decades old, it still echoes today. In recent years, researchers and scientists have reported difficulty getting funding to investigate fluoride's risks, confronting obstacles with peer review or publication in high-impact journals whenever studies show fluoride's adverse effects, or facing direct pressure from their institutional funders.

In 1995 Dr. Phyllis Mullenix and her colleagues published a damning study: "Neurotoxicity of sodium fluoride in rats" in the journal *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*. The study reported that rats exposed to fluoride produced serious neurobehavioral changes. Specifically, fluoride was found to be capable of crossing the blood-brain barrier and potentially cause behavioral alterations, notably excitability and aggression.[20]

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[18] Herbert HJ, "EPA Ordered to Reinstate Whistleblower," *Associated Press*, December 8, 1992

[19] *Deseret News*, "Whistle-Blower Gets His Job Back at EPA," December 10, 1992.

[20] Mullenix P, Neurotoxicity of sodium fluoride in rats, *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*, 1995. PubMed ID 7760776.

What followed was an intense institutional pushback. Mullenix was criticized for experimental design flaws, demands for replication, accusations of over-interpretation, and sharp rebuttals from dental and industry-aligned scientists. Mullenix stated in interviews that she faced threats to her career as a consequence of challenging the official narrative. Today, health scholars investigating the politics of fluoride frequently cite the Mullenix episode as emblematic of what they call “coercive persuasion” by the medical industry. The Mullenix case is important not only for its scientific content but as another case study in how dissent from fluoride orthodoxy is persecuted within the scientific community.

One of the most significant recent debates has been over the nation’s National Toxicology Program’s (NTP) monograph on fluoride exposure and neurodevelopmental and cognitive disorders.[21] Over several years, draft versions of the monograph included stronger hazard classifications such as language declaring fluoride “presumed to be a cognitive neurodevelopmental hazard to humans”. This was especially true at exposure levels above ≥1.5 mg/L threshold.

However, following rounds of external peer review, including a review by the National Academies of Sciences and public comments, as well as legal pressure to release earlier document drafts, these stronger hazard terms were edited or removed in the final version published in August 2024. Although the final monograph still recognizes “moderate confidence” in the associations between higher fluoride exposure and reduced IQ, the reformulation and removal of more forceful language has been viewed as a “walk-back” under institutional pressure.

The monograph’s procedural history is well documented. However, among the critical responses are commentaries in academic journals and investigative journalism pointing out that the “strongest” earlier claims were among those most diluted or removed despite the supporting epidemiological data not themselves refuted.[22]

In the *Food & Water Watch, Inc. et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, lawsuit decided on September 24, 2024, a U.S. District Court evaluated the evidence

[21] National Toxicology Program, *Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopment and Cognition*, Final version, Aug. 21, 2024.
[22] Schulson M, “Baring Teeth: The Long Battle Over Fluoride Comes to a Head,” *Undark*, March 6, 2024.

collected over many years about fluoride exposure's effects on mental cognition. The plaintiffs argued that the current federal fluoridation practice violates the Toxic Substances Control Act because of human health risks, particularly children's neurological development.[23]

The judge found that the peer-reviewed epidemiologic studies, draft NTP materials and expert medical testimony "provides substantial and scientifically credible evidence" that fluoride exposure at levels under current fluoridation norms is associated with lower IQ in children. The court decision ordered the EPA to take immediate regulatory action.[24] Moreover, the case provides a clear judicial recognition that fluoride's risk is no longer just a speculative claim by private industry and its control over our federal regulatory agencies.

This ruling is pivotal because it transforms scientific debate into a legal obligation. It also forced the federal agencies to make internal scientific and policy materials public.

Following the NTP's final monograph and the *Food & Water Watch* ruling, pro-fluoride associations and advocacy groups -- notably the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Fluoridation Society (AFS) – in addition to community water boards rapidly mobilized to reassert their claims about the safety and benefits of its standard fluoridation practices.

The ADA issued press releases claiming the new document stating that higher exposure levels were responsible for observed neurodevelopmental effects was a "misuse" of the NTP data.[25] Likewise, the American Fluoridation Society published arguments that the findings of fluoride's hazards to human health had gone overboard. Critics have noted the speed with which certain pro-fluoride declarations appeared, such as within days of the NTP release.

Fortunately, the tides are turning. Concurrent with the growing scientific controversy has been political and regulatory pushback at state and local levels. Earlier this year,

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[23] *Food & Water Watch, Inc. et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 17-cv-02162-EMC, Memorandum Opinion (N.D. Cal.), Sept. 24, 2024.

[24] Reuters, "EPA must address fluoridated water's risk to children's IQs, US judge rules," Sept. 25, 2024.

[25] ADA News, "ADA Reaffirms Support for Community Water Fluoridation," August/September 2024.

Utah passed a law banning the addition of fluoride into its public water supplies. This law represents one of the first state-wide bans in modern American history; the ban was passed in the context of increasing public concern and recent scientific findings about fluoride's neurodevelopmental risks.

From the Marcus whistleblower case through the Mullenix findings, to the recent NTP report and the Food & Water Watch v. EPA ruling, the period from 1990 to 2025 has been marked by growing tension between emerging evidence of fluoride's harm and the institutional resistance to change fluoride regulatory policies. The pro-fluoride entities, such as private industry, the water utilities, professional dental associations, and public health agencies, have repeatedly defended their diminishing positions.

As more rigorous epidemiological and toxicological data accumulate, continuing to treat fluoride exposure in water or dental products as inherently benign is becoming harder to justify. The evidence is now strong enough to seriously consider a nationwide moratoria or phased reductions. The institutional and reputational defenses that were once sufficient to sustain the nation's widespread fluoridation policy are now increasingly challenged by science, public concern, and legal mandates.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author[s] and do not necessarily reflect the views of ***The Trends Journal****.*

COMPANIES ARE LINING UP FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT / SOCIALIZED INVESTMENTS

This is Privatized Socialism

by Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net

Companies are now lining up for “US government investments.”
Calling this corporate/state merging “**Trump State Capitalism**” is a smokescreen, *a deception.*

What IS forming is a Vendor-State… *the government socializes downside and privatizes upside for a list of corporate “partners.”*

Label (propaganda) “State capitalism.” As if the public is taking true ownership and steering national strategy. **The reality is this, vendor-state capitalism IS the polar opposite of real capitalism.**

Reality… corporate/contracted “capitalism,” which is anything but capitalism, (a.k.a. Vendor-State capitalism), is privatized socialism. **Ownership and profits stay private, and losses are socialized via taxes, deficits, and inflation.** *It's a win-win for corporate power henceforth why corporations are lining up for it.*
“State capitalism.” It’s a ***V*endor-State merger *of corporate power + “government.”*

***Vendor-State merger. **(A blurring of lines between corporate vendors/power and a state government).** *In this relationship, the vendor's influence over the state's operations becomes so strong that it resembles a takeover, effectively merging the vendor's interests, in this case mega-corporations, with the state's public functions.*

Why it’s not “state capitalism.”

No public control, upside privatized with MASSIVE moral public hazard-
(corporate management knows the state will support their stock/company with public funds when policy wants a win).

Who pays (always the same three)…

1. **Consumers.** Higher prices.
2. **Savers. More financial repression** to fund deficits, subsidies, and backstops. This leads to further currency de-valuation and more debt.
3. **Taxpayers.** Direct publicly funded subsidies for the corporate/vendor state.

Market consequences.

Stock/Index concentration up… state-favored names WILL pull more passive cash inflows, *and market breadth deteriorates.*

Deficits + vendor-state policy + buybacks/backstops = **more and greater price action distortions…** *And when it all goes south, which it will, the public will be left holding the bag… as usual.*

Then there is "Zombie Risk." Protected vendor-state companies being artificially propped up with public/taxpayer funds.

Vendor-state "capitalism" is a grave threat to our freedoms and liberties.
Bottom Line To Remember… *A blurring of the lines between a corporate vendor's power, and a state government will result in the "vendor/corporation" gaining influence over the state's operations, policy, and even law…* ***and therefore gain enormous power over We the People.***

With vendor-state capitalism, the "government" isn't "owning the means of production. *FULL STOP!*

It's underwriting, *with public funds,* **select corporations with equity stakes, subsidies, and backstops.** *Consumers and savers pay through higher prices meanwhile vendors lock higher profits.*

I URGE YOU TO STAND AGAINST THIS!

Vendor-State capitalism = corporatism with socialized risk. "Government" backstops provided by public funds, leading to privatized rewards for the member vendor-state companies.

by Joe Doran

MASSIVE AI TRANSFORMATION: WHO WINS, WHO LOSES

By 2030, AI and automation is set to displace 30 percent of current human jobs—and perhaps more than that.

Autonomous robot technology is advancing quickly everywhere, from humanoid robots positioned as home servants, to AI powered farm machines that can further transform farms into agricultural factories, to traditional factories and warehouses where shrinking numbers of AI-assisted human managers oversee armies of robot workers.

AI agents and generative AI are also transforming the internet as well, of course. The savviest entrepreneurs are “hiring” teams of AI employees, training them to perform or speed up marketing, research, content production, personal time and task management, and even automated financial and crypto trading, etc.

One way many are profiting is by the general adage, if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em—in this case, by embracing and trying to learn how to leverage AI to stay competitive in the work world.

But positioning to best survive and prosper by the enormous AI transformation happening for better or worse, may depend on understanding the larger economic macro shift underway.

Creating Abundance While Decimating Human Wages?

Five years from now, when the AI and automation smoke clears, and perhaps a billion humanoid robots walk the earth, beginning to vie with humans in numbers on streets and everywhere else, which humans will stand as the biggest winners?

In that increasingly “physical AI” dominated world, every device, machine and object will likely be capable of engaging in conversation and ready transactions.

Business analytics firm McKinsey has long tracked trends in automation, and more recently generative and agentic AI.

They say AI will fuel both an AI productivity and AI worker displacement mega-shift to the tune of multi-trillions over the next half decade.

On the productivity side, AI and related automation will add about 20 trillion to global GDP.

At the same time, 13 Trillion of “value” will accrue from “labor substitution.”

Translation: massive AI worker replacism, something we have long been forecasting in these pages.

But McKinsey is still selling the notion of AI induced "creative destruction," or the idea that AI and automation will go down like previous technological epochs, destroying some sectors and occupation categories, while creating others.

A spring 2025 report of theirs argued that re-training for certain growth sectors would stave off AI replacism:

> *"By 2030, about 12 million workers may need to transition from declining roles to these growing sectors. Workers in lower-wage jobs are up to 14 times more likely to need to change occupations compared with those in the highest-wage positions, and most will need additional skills to do so successfully." ("Empowering the US workforce," 27 Apr 2025.)*

But we have long forecast that AI is unlike any previous technology, and will sooner or later come for every job ("AI IS LEARNING YOUR JOB," 24 May 2022) and leave in its wake human obsolescence and a huge social wealth and power divide ("GENERATION AI: AI LAYING WASTE TO JOBS, AS WE PREDICTED," 24 Oct 2023).

We noted in the latter:

> *In a growing number of industries, AI, still in its technologic infancy, is already showing itself as a malleable "creative" that can extend to every human endeavor, outdoing human performance at every turn, leaving no province where AI cannot theoretically be used, instead of human intelligence. And that spells trouble.*

AI industry leaders disagree concerning how fast the replacism will proceed. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has been criticized for being too alarmist and aggressive in his predictions.

Some have ridiculed him for saying software coding would be performed 90 percent by AI within about a year, while the numbers coming in are much lower—just 20 to 30 percent.

As if that's where it will stop, or not accelerate from here forward.

Amodei hasn't shied away from continuing to sound alarm bells, despite his company being responsible for Claude, one of the major commercial generative AI and AI agent platforms in existence.

Speaking this past week at an Axios AI+ DC Summit, and reported in an Axios exclusive, Amodei said he feels the need to speak honestly about the overall AI picture:

> *"As with most things, when an exponential is moving very quickly, you can't be sure. I think it is likely enough to happen that we felt there was a need to warn the world about it and to speak honestly."*
> *("Exclusive: AI's ability to displace jobs is advancing quickly, Anthropic CEO says," 17 Sep 2025.)*

He said he believes governments (not AI corporations, note) will likely need to step in and support workers displayed by AI, and that policymakers and many others still do not fully appreciate the exponential changes in store over the next few years.

Sam Altman and Elon Musk, heads on rival AI platforms ChatGPT and Grok, and tech titan adversaries in practically every way, manage to agree on one selling point: spinning things more positively than Amodei.

They have said AI and automation will usher in a gilded machine age of abundance, and as Musk called it, a free and Universal Great Income, to distinguish it from the perhaps more modest government gruel of Universal Basic Income (UBI) Amodei has appeared to suggest.

Musk was at it again this past week, as reported by Yahoo Finance, which carried a headline, "Elon Musk Says We'll All Have 'Best' Medical Care, Food, Housing and 'Everything Else' And A Universal 'High' Income When Robots Take Over By 2030" (20 Sep 2025).

Surviving the Have and Have-Not AI Future

It should be clear to average human workers that over the next few years, someone other than themselves may have much more say and control over their allotted "abundance" consumption, productivity and ownership…that is, unless they devise and execute a game-plan to retain and enhance their economic and financial freedom.

Hoping for an evolving "fair" system of distribution of the material benefits of AI and automation is to place faith in the hands of technocrats.

Not advisable.

Yes, as we have long suggested, crypto technology could provide the means both to widely govern AI development, and distribute rewards in a transparent, non-politicized way.

But authorities are unlikely to utilize the technology to do so.

Permissionless cryptos, most importantly Bitcoin, do however represent a crucial escape hatch for storing and preserving the productivity of humans.

More generally, focusing on acquiring hard assets and investments that retain value and accrue or produce returns, is more important than ever.

For younger workers, hustling to gain greater skills and maximize income right now should certainly be a focus.

But what to do with income is even more important. The next decade will involve hard decisions about whether and how to save and deploy capital.

Unlike earlier generations that had time to "find themselves" and "enjoy youth," Generation AI doesn't have that luxury.

Fast and even self-evolving AI is already breathing down their neck.

Climbing corporate ladders, and aiming for rainbows of six and seven figure salaries, and corner offices, may never materialize.

TRENDPOST: *There is opportunity.*

But it requires recognizing the current moment.

For one thing, governments are caught in the final stages of fiat debt spirals.

And for another, technology is so bizarrely changing society, that enduring premises of human existence may be falling away precipitously, with little understanding of what it will mean.

Grabbing a stock investment piece of the leading tech companies profiting off massive human IP, knowledge, content and data theft is a Faustian bargain, to say the least.

But it certainly looks like a pragmatic option, given the complete failure of political authorities to hold AI tech companies accountable for their pillage.

All the inputs and puzzle pieces best positioned to fuel the ongoing tech transformation—companies rooted in energy realism, data infrastructure, robotics, chip-making, etc.—will continue to dominate.

But even they may cannibalize themselves, as they decimate other businesses and job categories.

Software coders, to give just one example, have been under increasing pressure from AI, as we've pointed out in these pages.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella recently hinted at a more general ironic sunset of the world's iconic software company.

As reported by The Times Of India, Nadella confessed at an employee "town hall" that he's "haunted" by the possibility that the company might not adapt to and survive the AI revolution.

Responding to question, he acknowledged AI related lay-offs and promised the company would seek to do better in its employee relations:

> *"I deeply appreciate that, the question and the sentiment behind it. I take it as feedback for me and everyone in the leadership team, because at the end of the day, I think we can do better, and we will do better."*
> *("Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella 'warns' employees at company townhall: 'I'm haunted by one particular…'" 21 Dep 2025.)*

So where else to look to weather storms and prosper in the AI "age of abundance"?

*The age-old commodities so often and presciently advocated in **The Trends Journal** over the years, have been more than demonstrating their value.*

Besides those, digital commodities, most importantly Bitcoin, continue to present an asymmetric upside in the face of financial and geopolitical circumstances.

*This writer has long articulated the unique value proposition of Bitcoin both in these pages, and in the former Trends In Crypto section of **TJ**.*

Bitcoin proponent Adam Livingston manages to convey the stakes at hand with fast paced humor in Youtube videos that are well worth checking out.

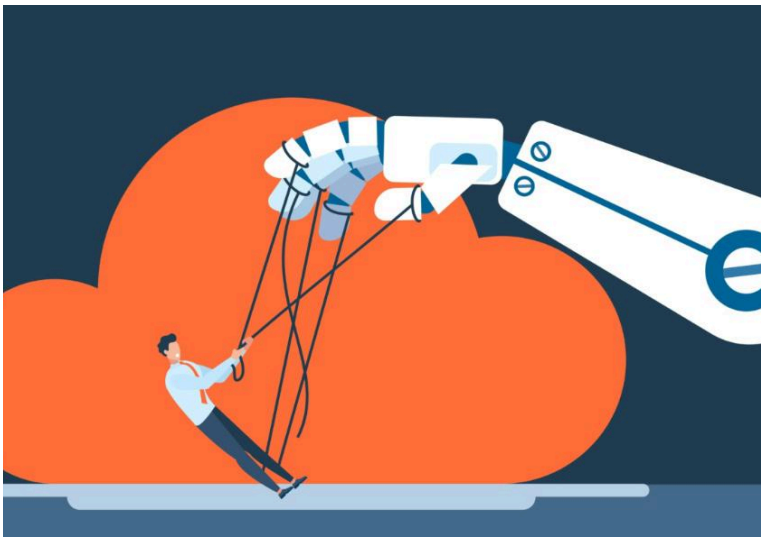
Ethereum and a handful of other tokens with utility regarding AI, RWA tokenization, payments and decentralized software conferring greater privacy, ownership and resistance to censorship—the promises of web3—have long been detailed by this writer.

The overall key may be not so much in apprehending where to invest, store and accrue value.

The macro choices are fairly obvious.

More likely, it's in recognizing the limited time window at hand, and having the discipline to make the investments while the opportunity is still there.

TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: SURVEY RESPONDERS REJECT AI FATALISM



SURVEY REVEALS MANY NOT YET RESIGNED TO NATURAL HUMANKIND SUNSET

The ongoing “AI Arms Race” of major global powers, and the lack of any political or popular will to limit pursuit of the most powerful possible AI, regardless of the potential dangers, has left many feeling resigned.

Tech and science news outlet Live Science conducted a poll that showed, according to its headline, “'There's no shoving that genie back in the bottle': Readers believe it's too late to stop the progression of AI” (18 Sep 2025).

The poll received some 1,700 responses.

But the results of the poll appear more nuanced than the associated headline suggests. Among the findings:

- Just 9 percent believed unbound AI development was worth the risks
- 30 percent said that AI is worth the risks, but only if development was delayed in order to ensure proper safeguards
- Though 10 percent said it was too late to stop AI that potential posed serious or even existential risks to humankind, 46 percent disagreed, and said AI development should be halted before those risks materialize

The article noted that the poll was conducted to assess concerns about out-of-control AI development:

> *"Should humanity pull the brakes on artificial intelligence (AI) before it endangers our very survival? As the technology continues to transform industries and daily life, public opinion is sharply divided over its future, especially as the prospect of AI models that can match human-like intelligence becomes more feasible."*

A number of poll takers who left comments on the outlet's Instagram page were quoted in the article, including one, 3jaredsjones3, who referenced our longtime description of the dynamics involved as an "AI Arms Race":

> *"It's an international arms race and the knowledge is out there. There's not a good way to stop it. But we need to be careful even of AI simply crowding us out (millions or billions of AI agents could be a massive displacement risk for humans even if AI hasn't surpassed human intelligence or reached AGI)."*

TRENDPOST: *Mainstream anxiety over the unbound pursuit of AI development is clearly growing.*

Significant numbers appear to support a pause in AI development, and greater safeguards to ensure AI doesn't become a risk to humans.

Just as important, many believe that an unbound future where AGI (Artificial General Intelligence) and ASI (Artificial Super Intelligence) have been unleashed, are not inevitable.

We argued nearly a year-and-a-half ago in these pages that leading technocrats were actively framing the AGI and ASI as inevitable, to undermine and propagandize against regulatory oversight and grassroots opposition. (See "THE "INEVITABLE" GAME," 14 May 2025.)

We have also long argued that several major factors have been driving unbound AI development, and needed to be fully understood in order to counter dangerous "progress" which was not really human progress at all.

Those factors include:

- *Obviously, a desire to leverage the power of AI technology for profit and power*
- *A transhuman /posthuman ideological conception of "progress" that is fundamentally untethered to serving or even continuing natural humanity*
- *A drive to achieve professional "glory" and firsts in technological milestones of AI development*

See our analysis for example in:

- *"RESET, REMAKE AND BUILD BACK BETTER: SCIENTIFIC MARXISM" (7 Dec 2021)*
- *"THE TRANSHUMAN WAR HAS ALREADY BEGUN" (29 Mar 2022)*
- *"INSIGHTS ON THE TECHNOCRATIC ASCENDANCE, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR HUMANITY" (9 May 2023)*
- *"THE UNIFIED THEORY OF TECHNOCRACY" (18 Jun 2024)*
- *"NEEDED: A NATURAL HUMAN REVOLUTION" (15 Oct 2024)*
- *"TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: AI ARMS RACE, MORE INDUSTRY LIES ABOUT HUMAN IMPACTS, AND TASTIER (GENE-EDITED) VEGGIES" (19 Nov 2024)*

Major AI tech companies have so far been remarkably (and dishearteningly) successful so far in exploiting a technology which can thoroughly consume human created content, IP, knowledge and privileged data, and capture and hijack profit to those same companies. (We have forecast on this and its ramifications long before others, in articles such as "CREATIVE CONTENT INFRINGEMENT OF DEEP LEARNING AI HAS MONUMENTAL IMPLICATIONS" 7 Feb 2023 and "FALSE EQUIVALENCE: CHATGPT DOESN'T LEARN CONTENT LIKE HUMANS, AND CRIES OUT FOR NEW IP LAWS," 21 Mar 2023.)

Though artists and authors, and entities representing them are waging and receiving some compensation as a result of court battles, AI companies are mostly escaping unscathed.

They're developing more sophisticated AI platforms and products every day that are empowering businesses and entrepreneurs of all kinds to deploy AI replacism of human workers.

Governments are doing little to address either the exploitation or prepare for the impending enormity of AI induced human obsolescence, because they are embarked on their own geopolitical quest to win an AI Arms Race.

We first used that term to describe the dynamic of AI development several years ago, in early 2023, in "AN AI PAUSE WON'T CUT IT: REJECT SCIENTISM OR BRACE FOR A POST HUMAN FUTURE" (4 Apr 2023).

But well before that, we have long tracked government efforts to develop and weaponize advanced AI.

See for example:

- *"THE FUTURE: MORE TECH NIGHTMARE THAN NIRVANA?" 20 Apr 2021)*
- *"A SHORT PATH FROM COVID VAX TECH TO GENETIC WEAPONS" (24 Aug 2021)*
- *"CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE" (13 Jul 2021)*
- *"'SPACE CHIEF'S' VISION OF FUTURE WARS" (4 May 2021)*
- *"ARMY DEVELOPING WAR MACHINE 'FLESH' ROBOTS" (27 Apr 2021)*
- *"WAR, PROFIT AND TRANSHUMANISM: THE QUEST FOR THE 'SECOND QUANTUM REVOLUTION'" (15 Mar 2022)*
- *"DARPA WANTS TO LEAD 'THIRD WAVE' OF WEAPONIZED AI" (7 Jun 2022)*
- *"INNOVATING WITH AI OR BLOCKCHAIN TECH? EXPECT THE DOD TO KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR." (16 Aug 2022)*
- *"AI BEING TRAINED TO FIGHT FOR WOKEISM AND WAR" (15 Dec 2022)*
- *"AI WILL DECIDE ITS OWN KILL TARGETS" (14 Mar 2023)*
- *"PENTAGON PURSUING BLEEDING EDGE AI TO WAGE WAR" (18 Apr 2023)*
- *"HOW THE PENTAGON AND US INTELLIGENCE THOROUGHLY CO-OPTED CIVILIAN AI" (25 Apr 2023)*

More recently, in "TRUMP AI ACTION PLAN UNLEASHES AMERICAN AI INNOVATION, FOR BETTER AND WORSE" (29 Jul 2025) we detailed how the Trump administration's aggressive agenda to unleash AI development and innovation is predicated on winning the AI Arms Race

Political authorities believe—and are probably right—that the nation first to develop a Super Intelligent AI will likely achieve a decisive superiority over rivals.

But, given the nature and power of such a technology, the victory may prove very short-lived.

WIRED AND CNBC SAY THE HUMANOID 'CHATGPT' MOMENT IS HERE

By now, almost everyone has seen videos of humanoid robots active in public spaces, demo-ing their abilities as performers of household chores, and even competing in athletic competitions.

You may have even seen one in real life.

But don't worry if you haven't yet—you very likely soon will.

Major media, along with leading "physical AI" companies like Figure.AI and Tesla in the U.S., and UBTech Robotics and Galbot in China, are racing to make their mark with the commercial unleashing of (relatively) modestly priced humanoid robots.

These AI-powered machines with human-like shapes and dexterity may be fast approaching their ChatGPT moment of explosive consumer uptake, CNBC recently reported. ("Is the humanoid robot industry ready for its ChatGPT moment?" 14 Sep 2025.)

The article focused on China and U.S. based robotics companies including

It quoted Xiong Youjun of the Beijing Innovation Center for Humanoid Robotics, who predicted: "There is a consensus in our industry that the ChatGPT moment for humanoid robots has arrived.

His comments came during a meeting of professionals in Singapore from China's robotics industry this past week.

Leading tech outlet *Wired*, meanwhile, heralded this past week "Move Aside, Chatbots: AI Humanoids Are Here" (18 Sep 2025).

The *Wired* piece was basically a podcast transcript between AI business correspondent Kylie Robison and AI reporter and observer Will Knight, outlining renewed interest of AI companies like OpenAI in robotics.

They noted that advances in robot dexterity and fine motor skills, together with quickly advancing generative and agentic AI, rendering AI systems capable of conversing and carrying out tasks independently, was likely leading to a huge impending market uptake of "physical AI."

We told readers back in January that this would be the year AI-powered humanoid robots would see a push into mainstream awareness and uptake. (See "TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: PRICING TARGETS WHAT YOU CAN PAY, HUMANOIDS GOING MAINSTREAM 2025, AND MAJOR OUTLET CONFIRMS 'MIND-VASION,'" 7 Jan 2025.)

And we followed up with articles including "HUMANOIDS SET TO EXPLODE AS HUMAN POPULATIONS IMPLODE: THE POST-HUMAN FEVER DREAM CONTINUES" (8 Apr 2025) and "TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: ROBOT BOOM, HUMAN BUST" (20 May 2025).

Of course, we have long been tracking development of humanoid robots like Tesla's Optimus and others, and more generally, plans for AI and robot driven human replacism, in articles like "PULL THE PLUG ON TECH POWER OR THE PLUG WILL BE PULLED ON YOU" (24 Aug 2021), "METAWORLD" (30 Nov 2021), "MUSK TAKES STAGE WITH OPTIMUS HUMANOID ROBOT" (4 Oct 2022) and "CAN CRYPTO TECHNOLOGY DEMOCRATIZE THE AI AND AUTOMATION REVOLUTION?" (21 Feb 2023).

We first alerted readers to impending AI "Digital Agents" in "SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE" (3 Aug 2021), three years before they were broke into practical mainstream use in latter 2024.

And in "WHEN AI LEARNS YOU, WHO OWNS 'YOU?' (HINT: NOT YOU)" (3 Dec 2024), we forecast that human worker rights surrounding pressured training and co-opting of human skills sets to company owned AI agents would likely be an eventual legal battleground.

TRENDPOST: *With the mass commercial debut of humanoid robots, the obsolescence of humans is nearer.*

We have long warned in these pages concerning the consequences of developing technologies like AI and gene editing to the point where they cannot serve natural humanity.

On a practical and personal level, people in danger of having their livelihoods and commercial usefulness outmoded by AI, automation and physical AI humanoids and other robotics, have hard choices to make.

Some are choosing to try to keep ahead of the obsolescence game by learning and leveraging generative AI and AI agents as early adopters, to increase their own productivity in a competitive marketplace. Regarding that, see our reporting in:

- *"AI IS LEARNING YOUR JOB" (24 May 2022)*
- *"WOKE ETHICS WON'T SAVE US FROM THE SINGULARITY" (21 Feb 2023)*
- *"SIRS McCARTNEY AND JOHN AGREE THAT AI WILL ERODE HUMAN CREATIVITY" (4 Feb 2025)*
- *"CREATORS: HAVE FUN WITH AI WHILE IT LASTS" (4 Mar 2025)*
- *"AI MUSICAL CHAIRS: PROFITING FROM HUMAN REPLACISM" (27 May 2025)*
- *"VIRAL 'AI' BAND FORCES QUESTIONS ON THE AI TAKEOVER" (15 Jul 2025)*

Others are simply investing where there is opportunity in the companies, projects and protocols that are leading the AI and robotics revolution.

Obvious players are "Mag 7" companies like Nvidia, Google, Amazon (closely partnered with Anthropic), Microsoft, Apple and Meta (currently vying for leadership in AI-powered eyewear and AR / VR metaverse technologies).

Many other tech, energy, database information companies and crypto projects are also benefitting from the explosion of AI, so there's certainly no shortage of investment plays.

For those looking for ways to remain human as well as relevant in the spiraling frenzy of "AI Everywhere" transformation, we have long noted that leaning into endeavors and occupations which remain uniquely human, and focusing on freedoms of expression where AIs often are caged with guardrails, holds opportunities for profiting without feeding the AI monster.

For examples of our reporting and forecasting in that vein, see:

- *"WANT TO FIND YOUR NICHE AS A HUMAN CONTENT CREATOR? GO ANTI-WOKE AND FULL 'DIS-INFO'" (7 Mar 2023)*
- *"DE-HUMAN 'COMMODITY EVOLUTION'" (7 Mar 2023),*
- *"THE FUTURE: (NATURAL) HUMAN FLESH FOR FANTASY" (20 Jun 2023)*
- *"HIGH TECH 'HUMANNESS COMMODITIZERS' JUST GETTING STARTED" (17 Oct 2023)*
- *"TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: CRISPR GOES TO THE RACES, AND BILL GATES SAYS AI WILL RELEGATE HUMANS TO 'ENTERTAINMENT ONLY'" (11 Feb 2025)*

Of course, well before ChatGPT broke out in late 2022, we advocated that crypto technology might be used to compensate humans and give them governance powers over AI development, as an alternative to government UBI handouts. (See "AUTOMATING OUT OF WORLD CRISIS?" 12 Jul 2022.)

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES USE RECENT ALLEGED AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS BY RUSSIA TO TRY AND ESCALATE WAR

European countries have used recent allegations of airspace violations by the Russian military as proof that Russian President Vladimir Putin has become bolder since his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump in Alaska, and NATO allies need to be prepared to confront a more assertive Moscow.

A pair of German Eurofighters were scrambled to monitor a Russian radar aircraft that allegedly flew into neutral airspace over the Baltic Sea on Sunday, according to reports. Al Jazeera said the alleged incursion occurred just days before NATO plans to meet to discuss claims that three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets flew into Estonian airspace and lingered for 12 minutes.

CNN reported that Italian F-35 fighters, which had been put in place in response to a Russian drone scare over Poland, responded to the incident and the Russians were "forced to flee."

TRENDPOST: *WSWS noted that the "European imperialist powers" have seized on these alleged incursions in hopes of continuing to push the bloc towards an all-out war with Russia. (See "DOUBLE TROUBLE: ROMANIA FOLLOWS POLAND, SAYS RUSSIAN DRONE ENTERED ITS AIRSPACE" 16 Sep 2025, "NATO USES ALLEGED RUSSIAN DRONE INCURSION IN POLAND AS EXCUSE TO INTENSIFY WAR RHETORIC" 16 Sep 2025 and "POLAND CONSIDERS INTERCEPTING MISSILES OVER UKRAINE, NATO SAYS WARSAW IS ON ITS OWN" 16 Jul 2024.)*

Of course Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky used these incidents to pitch war between the West and Russia.

"The Russian military knows exactly where their drones are headed and how long they can operate in the air. This cannot be a coincidence, a mistake, or the initiative of some lower-level commanders," he said.

The WSWS report noted that European countries used these incidents to "expand military operations on the alliance's eastern flank," and cited how Warsaw deployed 40,000 troops to the border with Belarus and about 30,000 NATO troops are conducting a major training exercise in Poland called Iron Defender-25.

NATO announced Operation Eastern Sentry that repositioned fighter jets from alliance members to the eastern flank. Denmark was expected to send two F-16s, France would provide three Rafale aircraft, and Germany would provide four Eurofighters.

The WSWS report noted that the storyline that Russia remains a major threat to the West is essential "for the ruling leads as they seek to destroy what remains of public spending and social programs to fund their mad rearmament drive."

The European Defense Agency reported that the European Union (EU) spent a combined $402 billion on defense in 2024, according to Defense News. That number is expected to continue to rise to $446 billion in 2025.

The WSWS report said the three major European powers—Britain, France, and Germany—are all "committed to equipping themselves to secure their share of the spoils in a rapidly expanding third world war."

In the meantime, the outlet said all of these major governments are "fully committed" to continue their "assault on the working class, which necessitates the elimination of the remaining public services, social programs, and worker rights conceded by the ruling elite to the working class following World War II," WSWS said.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, the warmongering freak, told his countrymen last month that the welfare state that "the welfare state that we have today can no longer be financed with what we produce in the economy," according to DW.

Berlin intends to double its military budget in the next five years, which will leave a "hole of tens of billions of euros in its budget," Truthout reported. The report noted that Poland has also requested that the European Commission allow it to use about $7 billion in green projects to go towards its military.

***TREND FORECAST:** The Ukraine War and warlike rhetoric from these European countries will continue to intensify and as Donald Trump has proven, there is no leader who can bring an end to the war.*

Claiming that he was a man of peace when he ran for President Trump, stating for example that "I'm not going to start a war. I am going to stop war," he told reporters on Sunday that the U.S. would defend the Baltic states if Moscow attacked.

"Yeah, I would," he said.

CHINA BECOMES MORE ASSERTIVE IN THE FACE OF U.S. HEGEMONY

China is intent on sending U.S. President Donald Trump a clear message that the days of Washington bullying Beijing and interfering with its regional aspirations are over.

Earlier this month, Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and North Korea's Kim Jong-un in a show of unity in opposition to the U.S.'s goal of maintaining a unipolar world.

The Chinese showcased its military technological gains that include a nuclear triad that has more than doubled since 2020, *The New York Times* reported.

The paper reported that Beijing has long identified its nuclear weapons as purely for deterrence and that its main goal is for a "peaceful coexistence" with its neighbors and the U.S.

But the advancements that Beijing has made in its nuclear capabilities alone are "fresh indication that it is preparing for a prolonged era of rivalry—if not outright conflict—with the U.S.," the paper said.

Guangyi Pan, a scholar of Chinese politics at Australia's University of New South Wales, told the paper that Xi is becoming more confident as a major player in world affairs.

"Not only in the military side, but also in how to build a new international order," he said.

Taiwan

Whenever you discuss the relationship between Washington and Beijing, the Taiwan issue is never too far away.

Dong Jun, the Chinese defense minister, issued a warning to his U.S. counterpart, Pete Hegseth, that Washington is mistaken if it believes that it can contain China, the paper reported.

“We will never allow any separatist plot for Taiwan independence to succeed, and we are always ready to thwart any external use of force,” he said, according to the paper.

China followed those comments by sailing its newly christened aircraft carrier through the waters separating China and Taiwan.

Trump is no stranger to providing Taiwan with weapons so it can sustain a Chinese invasion long enough for allies in the region and the U.S. to respond. *The Guardian* reported that Trump provided Taiwan with over $10 billion in weapons sales during his first term in office.

Dong told reporters on Thursday that Beijing sees the “restoration” of Taiwan to China as an “integral part of the post-war international order.”

TREND FORECAST: The Trends Journal’s *forecast on the future of Taiwan has been consistent.*

Should China decide to use its military to retake what it sees as a breakaway province with 23 million people, the U.S. and its allies in the region will not come to Taipei’s aid in any meaningful way. (See “TAIWAN TRIES TO BOOST DEFENSE SPENDING AMID BELIEVED THREAT FROM CHINA” 26 Aug 2025, “CHINA HOLDS RECORD-BREAKING MILITARY EXERCISE OFF TAIWAN WARNING AGAINST INDEPENDENCE” 15 Oct 2024 and “TAIWAN SAYS IT’S AWARE OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY BY CHINA, ISSUES WARNING” 24 Sep 2024.)

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act states that Washington is committed to providing Taipei with arms for its defense. Beijing has long declared Taiwan as part of its territory under its "One China Principle."

It is under the act that the U.S. described its relationship as that of "strategic ambiguity." The act is loosely translated to mean that Washington can provide weapons, but there is no obligation to fight.

We have recently reported on China's military advancements that were showcased at its military parade that included weapons that seemed tailor-made to counter a U.S. response to an invasion of Taiwan. (See "CHINESE PRESIDENT XI: WE'RE #1," 9 Sep 2025.)

RUSSIAN FORCES INTENSIFY ATTACKS ON UKRAINE, TARGET RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPEDE WEAPONS SHIPMENTS

The Russian military has ramped up its effort to destroy Ukraine's railway infrastructure to damage Kyiv's economy and prevent the transportation of weapons.

The *Financial Times* reported that Russia used drones and missiles to target the substations that provide power to the rail network that weaves throughout Ukraine. The report said a strike in the overnight hours of Tuesday into Wednesday forced the delay of at least 26 trains. The paper said main train hubs were also damaged.

Oleksii Kuleba, the deputy prime minister from Ukraine, told the paper that Moscow "is deliberately targeting railway infrastructure." He called the attack last week a "massive drone strike."

The head of Ukrzaliznytsia, the state-owned railway company, told the paper that train depots and stations have been hit all across Ukraine, including some that have been destroyed.

Russia also carried out a major drone attack on Friday night into Saturday that targeted military-industrial-complex facilities that are working on developing missile systems. Moscow deployed over 600 drones and said after the attack that its objective was achieved.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky posted on X that Russia "aimed at our infrastructure, residential areas, and civilian enterprises."

"Every such strike is not a military necessity but a deliberate strategy by Russia to terrorize civilians and destroy our infrastructure. That is why a strong international response is needed," he posted.

The Wall Street Journal reported that supply roads leading to eastern Ukraine have become treacherous as Russia increases attacks on the infrastructure.

"The enemy picks a stretch of road and turns it into a nightmare," one soldier told the paper. "Every vehicle that passes gets hit."

Lt. Col. Dmytro Zaporozhets of Ukraine's 11th Army Corps told the paper that similar attacks used to occur only occasionally.

"Now, we face systemic attack waves targeting logistics routes, depots, roads into towns, and evacuation roads," he said.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported extensively on how Ukraine has been targeting Russia's soft targets, oil depots, oil pipe lines, etc. to prove to the West that it remains a good investment to try and weaken Moscow. (See "AS FORECAST: UKRAINE STRIKES MAJOR OIL REFINERY IN RUSSIA" 19 Sep 2025, "TRUMP AND HIS ADMINISTRATION OF LIGHTWEIGHTS CHANGES TONE ON UKRAINE" 20 May 2025, "UKRAINE'S PARLIAMENT RATIFIES MINERALS DEAL WITH U.S." 13 May 2025 and "JOKE'S ON US: TRUMP SAYS HE WAS BEING A LITTLE SARCASTIC*

WHEN VOWING TO BRING UKRAINE WAR TO AN END WITHIN 24 HOURS OF TAKING OFFICE" 18 Mar 2025.)

U.S. President Donald Trump, who vowed to end the Ukraine War within 24 hours of taking office, told reporters last week that Russian President Vladimir Putin "let me down."

"He really let me down," Trump said.

Trump previously told reporters that his meeting in Alaska with Putin "accomplished a lot."

The U.S. president started his term by appearing to place blame on Zelensky for refusing to negotiate a settlement to the war, but he has since upped his rhetoric towards Putin and even urged European countries still purchasing Russian crude to stop.

Russia has said it will not end the war until its goals are achieved, and, since its goals include taking Ukrainian land and barring Kyiv from joining NATO, European countries have called those terms something that they cannot approve.

Vita Spivak, a Russia analyst from the London-based consultancy Gatehouse Advisory Partners, told Bloomberg that it is important for Putin to show Trump that he can "still afford to escalate the situation."

"Putin is trying to increase his leverage for the next round of negotiations about Ukraine whenever it happens," she said.

***TREND FORECAST: Trends Journal** subscribers know that we have said Ukraine will lose more land the longer this war drags out, and it would behoove Kyiv to strike a deal and begin rebuilding the country with new security guarantees from the West. (See "AS FORECAST: THE LONGER THE UKRAINE WAR DRAGS ON, THE MORE LAND RUSSIA WILL TAKE," 17 Jun 2025.)*

Ukraine has not been able to keep up with advancements in Russia's drone technology. Moscow is now launching dozens of smaller drones from a mothership that also provides radar technology so these smaller drones can hit specific targets with great accuracy.

And totally forgotten and never reported by the mainstream media Presstitutes is how the U.S. and Europe bragged back in 2023 how the Ukraine Counteroffensive – which was a deadly expensive failure – would be successful and they would defeat Russia. See:

- *"UKRAINE SPRING COUNTEROFFENSIVE NOT SPRINGING" (9 May 2023)*
- *"LONG-ANTICIPATED COUNTEROFFENSIVE UNDERWAY IN UKRAINE: THE WINNER IS?" (13 Jun 2023)*
- *"UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE: A BLOODY MESS, WILL KYIV GO NUCLEAR?" (20 Jun 2023)*
- *"AS FORECAST: DON'T COUNT ON UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE" (5 Jul 2023)*
- *"U.S. ADMITS WHAT WE HAD FORECAST: UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE CONTRACTING, RUSSIAN CAPABILITIES UNDERESTIMATED" (11 Jul 2023)*
- *"PUTIN AGREES WITH TRENDS JOURNAL: 'DON'T COUNT ON UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE'" (18 Jul 2023)*
- *"UKRAINE LOST ITS COUNTEROFFENSIVE, NOW LOOKS TO PROVOKE WWIII WITH STRIKES ON RUSSIA'S BLACK SEA FLEET IN CRIMEA" (26 Sep 2023)*
- *"UKRAINE COUNTEROFFENSIVE A BLOODY FAILURE" (3 Oct 2023)*
- *"UKRAINE WAR A STALEMATE AFTER KYIV COUNTEROFFENSIVE FAILS TO DELIVER" (17 Oct 2023)*
- *"TAKE TWO! UKRAINE IS PREPARING ANOTHER COUNTEROFFENSIVE AFTER LAST YEAR'S DISASTER" (12 Mar 2024)*

UK USES DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO TIGHTEN GRIP ON PUBLIC'S FREEDOMS

Britain has begun using facial recognition devices to help its police force track down individuals who are wanted, which has raised privacy concerns and debate about how to preserve civil liberties while ensuring public safety.

The New York Times reported that police in London have arrested more than 1,000 individuals by using these facial recognition systems that are linked to a database with 16,000 people who are wanted at any given time.

Police operate 10 new vans that carry cameras that essentially scan the faces of people walking by and match those images to a database, the BBC reported.

Ryan Wain, the head of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, told the paper that there is a large "philosophical debate" going on in Britain over the use of the technology.

"There is a big question about what is freedom and what is safety," he said.

Britain's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology issued a statement to the paper that essentially dismissed privacy concerns tied to the expanded use of the technology since January 2024.

The agency said it does not apologize for employing the latest technologies to "help tackle crime, protect children online and secure our borders while safeguarding freedoms and ensuring the Internet is safe for everyone. Our focus is on safety and national security, not unnecessary intrusion."

The *Times* report noted that London has also taken recent steps to rein in online speech and has used new AI systems to review asylum claims. The paper called

Prime Minister Keri Starmer's effort at online digital surveillance as "one of the most sweeping embraces of digital surveillance and internet regulation by a Western democracy."

Nigel Farage, the head of Reform UK, said in July that the country's Online Safety Act is "borderline dystopian," according to the report.

The law aims to protect children online and forces internet users to provide a government-issued ID or some other official procedure to prove their age before using a host of websites.

Mashable reported that some of the concern is based on where all of the data being provided ends up.

TRENDPOST: *The digital revolution and AI technology are still in their infancy, and there is a real concern that civil rights laws will not keep up with the advancements. (See "TECHNOCRACY BRIEFS: AS WE WARNED IN 2021, AI SURVEILLANCE EVERYWHERE" 26 Aug 2025, "GOOGLE RESCINDS PLEDGE TO DENY AI FOR MILITARY AND SURVEILLANCE USE" 11 Feb 2025 and "YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT: THE SURVEILLANCE STATE IS MAKING A LIST, AND YOU'RE ON IT" 10 Dec 2024.)*

It is worth noting that it is not uncommon for police forces to adopt technologies used in wars, and we've seen what an important role drone surveillance has played in Ukraine. Israel has also used drone technologies to identify what it said were Hamas fighters. (See "AI TAKES CENTER STAGE IN UKRAINE'S DRONE ATTACK ON RUSSIA'S AIRFIELDS," 17 Jun 2025.)

And, as always, every time the government takes away your freedoms, it does so by claiming that it's for your security.

NEW WORLD DISORDER: FRANCE HIT WITH MORE PROTESTS OVER SPENDING CUTS

France experienced widespread protests on Wednesday that included about 500,000 people angered by the country's new austerity efforts that have already resulted in the collapse of two governments in nine months.

Sophie Binet, the head of France's powerful CGT union, told the *Financial Times* that the protests were a success and said her message for Sébastien Lecornu, the former defense minister who is now prime minister, is that "the streets must write this budget, if not, Mr. Lecornu will end up in the streets."

Lecornu is the country's fifth prime minister since 2022, which critics of President Emmanuel Macron said is an example of the country's discontent about the economy. The country's budget deficit is expected to reach 5.4 percent of its GDP by the end of the year, the paper reported. That puts France among the highest in the hole in Europe.

Lecornu, 39, has been tasked by Macron to come up with a new budget for 2026, and he promised to be "more serious" about reaching out to opposition parties than previous leaders, *The Economist* reported.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *reported earlier this month about the protests and identified them as part of the NEW WORLD DISORDER TREND. (See "NEW WORLD DISORDER: FRANCE HIT WITH 'BLOCK EVERYTHING' PROTESTS OVER SPENDING CUTS," 16 Sep 2025.)*

We wrote that these protests, which include blocking public transportation, have broken out even as Paris ramps up its military spending in the face of what it sees as a threat from Russia.

Macron announced in July that the country's 2026 military budget, initially planned at €57.5 billion, will be increased by another €3.5 billion. The country plans to spend €64 billion in 2027, which would be double what the country spent in 2017.

The protest on Wednesday was organized by eight unions, according to the FT. There were 140 arrests and were considered largely peaceful.

The Economist noted that François Bayrou, the previous prime minister, who is considered a centrist, looked to save about $51 billion by cutting social spending, which would bring the deficit to 4.6 percent of the GDP. Macron, a former Goldman Sachs bankster, has held off on increasing taxes on the country's richest to generate more revenue.

TREND FORECAST: *As economic crises mount in emerging nations, citizens will take to the streets to protest high prices for food and fuel, the lack of economic opportunity, and governments' general inability to improve living standards. (See "TOP TREND 2020, NEW WORLD DISORDER: CONFIDENCE IN ECONOMIC FUTURE LAGS," 17 Oct 2023.)*

As Gerald Celente has often said, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it."

Macron has been one of the European leaders who has tried to use the Ukraine War to benefit himself politically to try and prove that he is the kind of leader that France needs in the face of the Russian threat, but that has only taken him so far.

Leaders in the West know that there is no better sales pitch to the public than: I'm the one who will keep you safe, which is why Celente also says, "When all else fails, they take you to war."

WTO: AI WILL BRING ON NEW AGE OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY

The World Trade Organization (WTO) warned last week that the dramatic growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will likely bring on a new age of global inequality if poorer countries are excluded from gains made in the sector.

The *Financial Times* reported that WTO economists believe that AI could increase goods and services by 40 percent within the next 15 years.

But Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the WTO director-general, said that the AI advancements could deepen these inequalities if lessons are not learned from previous decades of globalization.

“AI has vast potential to lower trade costs and boost productivity. However, access to AI technologies and the capacity to participate in digital trade remain highly uneven,” she said. “With the right mix of trade, investment, and complementary policies, AI can create new growth opportunities in all economies. With the right frameworks, trade can play a central role in making AI work for all. The WTO is committed to supporting this effort.”

She said rich and poor countries have not shared in the benefits of globalization, and the continued exclusion “has much to do with today’s tensions around trade—and it is an experience we cannot afford to repeat with the AI revolution.”

She said U.S. President Donald Trump’s sanction war and the “concentration of AI resources in rich-world countries” run the risk of leaving “entire economies” in the dust, the paper said. She said if these poor countries can make small gains, like closing the “digital infrastructure gap” by half, it could result in 15 percent growth in these countries.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported extensively on AI and how China and the U.S. are in a race to become the world leaders in AI. (See "CHINA PLAYS THE LONG GAME IN AI" 9 Sep 2025, "AI TEACHES FACTORY ROBOTS TO PRIORITIZE HUMAN SAFETY" 9 Sep 2025 and "NEW APPROACH TO 'REASONING' AI BEATS CURRENT MODELS IN KEY TEST" 9 Sep 2025.)*

TREND FORECAST: *Poor countries will remain on the sidelines during the AI war unfolding between China and the U.S.*

In the 28 January edition of ***The Trends Journal****, we reported that DeepSeek stunned the AI world when it released a world-class generative AI that had been trained on far less data than its older major competitors and at a much lower cost.*

Amandeep Singh Gill, the UN special envoy for emerging technologies, told the FT that AI helped turn data into "something actionable."

"Suddenly, a small manufacturer in Ghana can get insights that used to be available only to multinational corporations," he said.

Gerald Celente recently told GoldSeek that AI, which came to market just three years ago, is still in its infancy, and that trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age and die. Therefore, it is not wise to invest heavily in newly invented technologies. He told the outlet that China will be the world leader in AI. He noted in the country of 1.4 billion, nearly 70 percent of 18-year-olds attend college... it was only 10 percent in 2000, the year before they were allowed into the World Trade Organization. And putting their money on where the future is going, Beijing is investing in Chinese AI companies. See:

- *"UPDATE: THE DEEPSEEK EFFECT" (11 Feb 2025)*
- *"SPECIAL REPORT: CHINA'S TECH SURGE" (18 Feb 2025)*
- *"CHINA FILING MORE AI PATENTS THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD" (18 Feb 2025)*
- *"SPECIAL REPORT: CHINA'S AI SURGE" (4 March 2025)*
- *"TOP U.S. COLLEGE GRADS SEND THEIR RESUMES TO CHINA" (25 March 2025)*

- *“DEEPSEEK RECASTS CHINA’S AI INDUSTRY” (8 Apr 2025)*
- *“IS CHINA PLACING ‘AI EVERYWHERE’ FASTER THAN THE U.S.?” (15 Apr 2025)*
- *“CHINA’S PRESIDENT URGES PUSH ON AI AND TOUTS ‘THE GLOBAL SOUTH’”*
  (6 May 2025)
- *“CHINA TECH GIANT IS BUILDING END-TO-END SUPPLY CHAIN FOR ADVANCED CHIPS” (13 May 2025)*
- *“CHINA IS GAINING ON THE U.S. IN THE GLOBAL AI RACE” (15 Jul 2025)*
- *“CHINA CLOSES THE AI GAP WITH THE WEST” (29 Jul 2025)*
- *“CHINA PROPOSES GLOBAL ORGANIZATION TO GUIDE AI” (12 Aug 2025)*
- *“DEEPSEEK IS UNABLE TO TRAIN ITS NEXT MODEL ON CHINESE CHIPS” (26 Aug 2025)*
- *“CHINA PLAYS THE LONG GAME IN AI” (9 Sept 2025)*

And as with the industrial revolution to the Internet revolution, poor nations will continue to be laggards and be brought down by financial stress.

RUSSIA SAYS ESTONIA IS FALSELY ACCUSING IT OF AIRSPACE VIOLATION

The Kremlin on Monday rejected the claim from Estonia that three of its MiG-31 jets violated its airspace for up to 12 minutes before fleeing, prompting NATO allies to accuse Moscow of becoming bolder as the war in Ukraine drags on.

“We never heard in the Estonian statement that they have objective monitoring data [to back up their claim],” Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said, according to Al Jazeera. “That is why we consider such words to be empty, unfounded, and a continuation of a completely reckless pattern of escalating tensions and provoking a confrontational atmosphere.”

NATO was quick to pounce on the alleged incursion because it followed a string of allegations from alliance members that claimed Russia violated their airspace, starting with Poland earlier this month when Warsaw said at least 21 drones entered its airspace.

Margus Tsahkna, Estonia's foreign minister, told reporters that the incursion over his country was different from others because it involved Russian fighters, and the violation lasted longer than previous incidents, according to *The New York Times*. Tsahkna told reporters that the Russian military has violated Estonian airspace four times since the start of the year, but this latest episode was, by far, the most brazen.

He said the only proper response from the alliance is to rapidly strengthen its political and economic resolve.

***TRENDPOST**: Kaja Kallas, the EU's top diplomat who was rewarded with the post for her warmongering position against Russia when she served as Estonia's prime minister, called the Russian violation an "extremely dangerous provocation."*

Kallas is the perfect example of a European politician from a small country that wants nothing more than to see a major war break out between Russia and the U.S. (See "ESTONIA'S KALLAS DREAMS OF ESTONIAN TROOPS FIGHTING RUSSIANS" 19 Mar 2024, "KALLAS SAYS 'EVERYTHING' IS ON THE TABLE TO GIVE UKRAINE EDGE OVER RUSSIA" 5 Mar 2024 and "DOUBLE TROUBLE: ROMANIA FOLLOWS POLAND, SAYS RUSSIAN DRONE ENTERED ITS AIRSPACE" 16 Sep 2025.)

Kestutis Budrys, the top diplomat from Lithuania, accused Russia of purposely testing the limits of NATO.

"These are not accidents," he said, according to the Financial Times. "The alliance is being tested merrily. We must sharpen negative posture to the point where no one dares to test our deterrence."

Allison Hart, a NATO spokeswoman, said in a statement that Italian F-35 fighters responded "immediately" to the Russian incursion over Estonia. These fighters were joined by additional aircraft from Sweden and Finland. (See "

Mike Waltz, the U.S. permanent representative to the UN who served for a short time as U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser, said the U.S. would help the NATO alliance protect every inch of its territory.

"I once again urge Russia, as a permanent member of this Council, to uphold international peace and security, to respect the sovereignty of its neighbors, to cease violating their airspace. And I call on Russia to negotiate directly with Ukraine to end that war," Waltz said.

Mark Rutte, the head of NATO, posted on social media that he spoke with Estonian leadership and called NATO's response "quick and decisive."

***TREND FORECAST:** The longer the Ukraine War drags on, the higher the likelihood that WWIII becomes official, which would lead to the end of life on Earth. This weekend, Gerald Celente's Occupy Peace is organizing a Peace Rally to call attention to the dangers that we face because of the warmongers in charge of a government near you. It is up to We the People to stop the arrogant warmongering politicians that are leading on the eve of destruction, so please do what you can to support the mission of Peace on Earth OccupyPeace.com.*

WELCOME TO HIGHER INFLATION: EU HITS RUSSIA WITH NEW SANCTIONS OVER UKRAINE WAR

The European Union announced last week that it will implement new sanctions against Russia that target its energy sector, which is seen as the main driver of Moscow's war funding.

Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, announced the sanctions and said it was high time that the West "turns off the tap," according to *The New York Times.*

"Our sanctions are an effective tool of economic pressure and will keep using them until Russia comes to the negotiating table," she said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called on the West to intensify its sanctions campaign against Moscow. He posted on social media on Sunday that it is essential that Moscow feels the consequences of what it's doing.

"Sufficient counteraction is needed to force them to seek peace," he said.

The new package calls for the end of purchases of liquified natural gas from Moscow by the start of 2027 and includes provisions to increase economic pressure on Beijing and other countries that continue to work with Russia, the *Times* said.

Von der Leyen said the EU will add 118 additional vessels to the sanction list tied to Russia's shadow fleet, bringing the total number to more than 560.

"We target refineries, oil traders, petrochemical companies in third countries, including China. In three years, Russia's oil revenues in Europe have gone down by 90 percent. We are now turning that page for good," she said.

The report said the sanctions will, for the first time, try to impede crypto purchases within Russia.

Von der Leyen has said the sanctions that have been imposed on Russia have been effective and have damaged the country's economy. She said the interest rate is at 17 percent and "Russian access to financing and revenues are consistently decreasing."

The new package still needs to be approved by the 27 members of the EU.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported on how U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed an interest in increasing sanctions against Russia as he continues to grow frustrated that the war he said he would end in 24 hours if elected president does not come to an end. (See "TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PREPARED TO INCREASE SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA" 16 Sep 2025, "TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PREPARED TO INCREASE SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA IF EUROPE STOPS BUYING RUSSIAN OIL" 16 Sep 2025 and "NO END IN SIGHT: TRUMP THREATENS NEW SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA OVER UKRAINE WAR" 26 Aug 2025.)*

Trump posted on social media that he is prepared to "do major sanctions on Russia," but only NATO proves that it's on the same page and is ready to do the "same thing."

Turkey, a member of NATO, has been the third-largest purchaser of Russian oil behind India and China. The report, citing the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air, reported that other members still using the Russian tap have been Hungary and Slovakia.

The Times noted that before the war, countries inside the EU imported more than 40 percent of their natural gas (pipeline) from Moscow and 30 percent of their oil from the country. Those numbers have dropped to 10 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

TREND FORECAST: *The sanction war between the EU and Russia will have a spillover effect for European countries that will see higher inflation because of higher energy prices because of the closed spigot from Russia. These countries have had to turn to diversifying their energy sources away from Moscow, which includes buying Liquid Natural Gas from the U.S. and Qatar.*

Laura Page, an analyst at Kpler, a research firm told the Times in June that since the summer of 2022, countries in the EU have ramped up their ability to take in LNG by about 30 percent—led by Germany.

UK'S FARAGE FINDS THAT PERSONALIZED VIDEOS COULD BE THE WAY TO VOTERS' HEARTS

Nigel Farage, the head of Britain's Reform U.K., has been one of the growing number of politicians who have been using the app Cameo to earn some cash on the side, and remain relevant in the eyes of voters.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Farage has his sights set on 10 Downing, and has used the popular app that allows creators to send direct video messages to customers who pay to get them to read a script. Cameo has been used to send birthday greetings and nearly every other kind of well wishes.

The paper viewed one of Farage's Cameo videos where he said, "Well, happy wedding day to the simp Leon, an incel no more. Hope all those beans you've been eating don't interrupt the big day, that would be a bit cringe."

The paper said that it seems "debatable" whether or not Farage "understands everything that he's saying."

Cameo has been used by U.S. politicians. Matt Gaetz, the former Republican congressman from Florida, charged a minimum $500-$550 per video. George Santos, another former Republican congressman, was one of the first politicians to use the app and would charge $500 per video. (He is not going to be using Cameo any time soon; he is serving an 87-month prison sentence for wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.)

The report noted that Farage is willing to read essentially anything that the user requests for $95 a video. He earned about $180,000 in 2024 doing the side-hustle, which the paper noted is more than he makes as a member of parliament.

Stephanie Alice Baker, a professor from City St. George's, the University of London, told the paper that Farage keeps his price relatively low and a lot of his saying, like "sus" (which means someone is "suspect") has wide appeal to the younger audience because these videos are posted on TikTok.

"He may have stumbled across Cameo by accident, but whoever has put it on TikTok is someone who is strategically helping him. He really is playing the long game," she said.

TRENDPOST: *Campaigns are evolving, and politicians know that they need to do all they can to make sure their message can be heard by young voters. Farage is smart to tap into that demographic.*

Donald Trump went out of his comfort zone during the 2024 presidential election and appeared on various podcasts, like "The Joe Rogan Experience" and "This Past Weekend With Theo Von" to help deliver his message to a new audience. (See "TRUMP WIN BENEFITED FROM SURGE OF SUPPORT FROM YOUNG VOTERS," 12 Nov 2024.)

PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR UKRAINE: U.S. MILITARY CAN KICK RUSSIA'S ASS IF THERE'S A WAR

Keith Kellogg, the retired general who is playing the role of President Donald Trump's special envoy to Ukraine, told an audience last Friday that Russia talks a "big game," but the U.S. would "kick their ass" in a war.

Kellogg addressed the YES Annual Meeting 2025 in Kyiv and assured the crowd that Russian President Vladimir Putin was as successful in Ukraine as he'd want you to believe, his troops would already be in Odessa, and it would be "west of the Dnipro River."

"If he was winning, he would've changed the government," Kellogg said, according to the *Kyiv Post.* "Russia is in fact losing this war."

The paper noted that Kellogg was asked about Russia's recent gains in the Donbass, which he wrote off as a nothing burger.

"If you consider advancing by meters, not miles, then OK, that's successful. But at the cost they're having, it's enormous," he said.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported extensively on the Minsk I and II agreements that were supposed to focus on bringing peace, but proved to be a Western ruse to arm Ukraine for a future war with Russia, which we are seeing play out now. (See "ZELENSKY SAID HE REFUSED TO HONOR MINSK PEACE ACCORD WITH RUSSIA" 14 Feb 2023, "RUSSIA SAYS NO UKRAINE WAR IF KYIV ABIDED BY MINSK AGREEMENT" 17 Jan 2023, "MERKEL ADMITS THAT MINSK AGREEMENT WAS A RUSE, RUSSIA CALLS FOR TRIBUNAL" 13 Dec 2022 and "GERMANY'S MERKEL MAKES IT CLEAR: MINSK AGREEMENT VIOLATED" 29 Nov 2022.)*

Russia Would be Stomped?

Kellogg said he had a recent talk in the Oval Office about the theory that Russia's military could smash the U.S., which he said was nonsense.

"I said to the people in the room, 'We'd kick their ass.' I mean by that don't take their statements at face value. They're not as good as Putin says they are. And I give great credit to the Ukrainian military because they've taken them down a couple notches," he told the meeting.

And what is not being reported by the Presstitutes is that back on 8 January, bullshitting on Fox News, Kellogg announced that he would find a "solvable solution" to the war in Ukraine within 100 days.

TREND FORECAST: *What is not reported in the U.S. and Western media is that the U.S. has not had a major war since WWII and they would not have been as successful without the support of the Russians who were the first to defeat Germany. And what is not reported this is the same Kellogg clown that said (See "PUTIN WARNS THAT WESTERN TROOPS IN UKRAINE WILL BE LEGITIMATE TARGETS" 9 Sep 2025, "NO TRUMP TRUTH, NO PUTIN CONSEQUENCES: ALASKA SUMMIT ENDS WITHOUT A*

DEAL TO END THE WAR" 19 Aug 2025, "PUTIN'S MEETING WITH TRUMP: THE TRIUMPH OF DELUSION OVER REALITY" 19 Aug 2025 and "TRUMP TO MEET WITH PUTIN TO DISCUSS UKRAINE WAR RESOLUTION" 12 Aug 2025.)

Gerald Celente had said there would be no ceasefire or peace deal and it was just more Trump talk. Celente also had said Russia will not give up the land in Ukraine that they have occupied. Ukraine should negotiate a peace deal with Russia because they would not defeat them in a war. See:

- *"WESTERN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN UKRAINE WAR, BUT IGNORED THEM IN U.S./NATO WARS" (8 Mar 2022)*
- *"WHITE HOUSE ASKS CONGRESS FOR $32.5 BILLION TO FIGHT UKRAINE WAR AND COVID WAR" (8 Mar 2022)*
- *"U.S. LOST EVERY WAR SINCE WWII, BUT IS TELLING UKRAINE HOW TO BEAT RUSSIA" (8 Mar 2022)*
- *"RET. COL. DOUGLAS MACGREGOR SAYS RUSSIA WILL CRUSH UKRAINE" (8 Mar 2022)*
- *"BIDEN WARNS AMERICANS HIS SANCTIONS WILL HURT RUSSIA… AND AMERICANS WRONG ABOUT WHO WILL WIN THE UKRAINE WAR?" (15 Mar 2022)*
- *"RUSSIA SURROUNDS UKRAINIAN FIGHTERS IN DONBAS, ADJUSTS TACTICS" (29 Mar 2022)*
- *"BEIJING STOP WESTERN SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA" (22 Mar 2022)*
- *"BIDEN WARNS AMERICANS HIS SANCTIONS WILL HURT RUSSIA… AND AMERICANS WRONG ABOUT WHO WILL WIN THE UKRAINE WAR?" (15 Mar 2022)*
- *"UKRAINE TO LOSE WAR: U.S. TRIES TO SAVE FACE AFTER CLASSIFIED DOC LEAK" (18 Apr 2023)*
- *"LONG-ANTICIPATED COUNTEROFFENSIVE UNDERWAY IN UKRAINE: THE WINNER IS?" (13 Jun 2023)*
- *"U.S. ADMITS WHAT WE HAD FORECAST: UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE CONTRACTING, RUSSIAN CAPABILITIES UNDERESTIMATED" (11 Jul 2023)*
- *"PUTIN AGREES WITH TRENDS JOURNAL: 'DON'T COUNT ON UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE'" (18 Jul 2023)*

- *"UKRAINE COUNTEROFFENSIVE A BLOODY FAILURE" (3 Oct 2023)*
- *"TAKE TWO! UKRAINE IS PREPARING ANOTHER COUNTEROFFENSIVE AFTER LAST YEAR'S DISASTER" (12 Mar 2024)*
- *"AS FORECAST: AS UKRAINE LOSES WAR IT WILL ESCALATE ATTACKS INSIDE RUSSIA" (19 Mar 2024)*
- *"UKRAINE CONTINUES TO TAKE AIM ON RUSSIAN INFRASTRUCTURE" (12 Apr 2024)*
- *"ZELENSKY ADMITS THAT UKRAINE HAS TO DEFEAT RUSSIA BEFORE JOINING NATO" (7 May 2024)*
- *"WWIII: UKRAINE CONTINUES ASSAULT ON SOFT TARGETS IN RUSSIA" (14 May 2024)*
- *"NO PEACE ALLOWED: U.S. SENDS UKRAINE ANOTHER $225 MILLION IN WEAPONS TO KEEP FIGHTING LOSING WAR" (11 Jun 2024)*
- *"U.S. ANNOUNCES ANOTHER $1.7 BILLION IN WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE'S LOST WAR" (6 Aug 2024)*
- *"WESTERN MEDIA SAYS UKRAINE OFFENSIVE A SUCCESS, AS RUSSIA TAKES MORE LAND" (20 Aug 2024)*
- *"AS FORECAST: UKRAINE WILL RAMP UP ATTACKS INSIDE RUSSIA" (27 Aug 2024)*
- *"U.S. ANNOUNCES NEARLY $9 BILLION IN MORE WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE" (1 Oct 2024)*
- *"NATO'S NEW HEAD VOWS MORE WAR IN UKRAINE" (8 Oct 2024)*
- *"FALSE FLAG COMING: UKRAINE WARNS THAT ITS NUKE PLANTS ARE VULNERABLE TO RUSSIAN ATTACK" (15 Oct 2024)*
- *"WILL UKRAINE GO NUCLEAR IF ABANDONED BY TRUMP?" (19 Nov 2024)*
- *"AS FORECAST: THE LONGER THE UKRAINE WAR DRAGS ON, THE MORE LAND RUSSIA WILL TAKE" (17 Jun 2025)*
- *"TRUMP WITHHOLDS PATRIOT MISSILES, OTHER WEAPONS FROM UKRAINE AS STOCKS RUN LOW" (8 Jul 2025)*
- *"AS FORECAST: UKRAINE LAUNCHES LARGE DRONE ATTACK, FORCES CLOSURE OF MOSCOW'S AIRPORTS" (22 Jul 2025)*
- *"UKRAINE RAMPS UP ATTACKS ON RUSSIA'S REFINERIES, OIL PRICES RISE" (26 Aug 2025)*

TRUMP USES KIRK ASSASSINATION TO CHILL FREE SPEECH IN U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump used to like to bill himself as a fierce defender of the First Amendment, but his administration has been carrying out a policy that seemed to be in complete opposition to that position—especially after the recent assassination of Charlie Kirk, the popular Trump booster.

His administration has now described speech as something that could be weaponized and used to spread “hate.”

Stephen Miller, Trump’s adviser, posted on X: “The path forward is not to mimic the ACLU of the mid-90’s. It is to take all necessary and rational steps to save Western Civilization.”

CNN noted that Elon Musk, who now appears to be back in the Trump orbit after attending the Kirk memorial with the president on Sunday agreed with Miller’s post, and reposted with “Yes.”

The New York Times published a story last week juxtaposing what Trump and his team have said about the freedom of speech and what they’re saying now.

Trump said during his inauguration that he would work to end “all government censorship and bring back free speech to America.”

“Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents,” he said at the time, according to the paper.

The paper noted that Trump celebrated the decision from ABC to sideline Jimmy Kimmel over comments that he made about Kirk’s alleged killer.

Kimmel said during a monologue that it was obvious that Trump's MAGA supporters were doing all they could to describe Tyler Robinson, the alleged gunman, as "anything other than one of them."

Kimmel also accused the administration of trying to score political points from the killing.

The *Times* noted that Trump posted that 97 percent of the coverage of him on network television is negative and it could be the time that these stations lose their licenses.

"They give me only bad press. They're getting a license. I think maybe their license should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr. I think [FCC Chairman] Brendan Carr is outstanding. He's a patriot. He loves our country, and he's a tough guy. So we'll see," Trump said.

The paper noted that it seemed the Trump administration takes a different position when the speech in question is favorable to its interests.

Pam Bondi, the attorney general, defended firefighters in New York City who booed Trump's nemesis Letitia James, the city's attorney general. Bondi said the government cannot "choose which messages it will permit and which it will censor."

The report noted that she seems to make an exception for Kirk.

She told a podcast that the Department of Justice will "absolutely target you, go after you, if you are targeting anyone with hate speech."

She continued, "It's not free speech when you come out and you say, 'it's OK what happened to Charlie. We're firing people, we're seeing people online who are posting hate speech—they should be shut down."

Tulsi Gabbard, the director of National Intelligence, told attendees at Kirk's Arizona memorial service on Sunday that free speech is "the foundation of our democratic republic. We must protect it at all costs, because without it, we'll be lost. Charlie knew this. He lived it."

The Daily Beast reported that some saw Gabbard's comments as a rejection of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chair Brendan Carr, who threatened media companies that provide platforms for people like Kimmel.

"These companies can find ways to change conduct and take action, frankly, on Kimmel, or there's going to be additional work for the FCC ahead," he said, according to the *Times.*

The Daily Beast noted that some Republicans warned that actions taken against media companies critical of their party could come back to bite them.

"They will silence us," Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said. "They will use this power, and they will use it ruthlessly."

Gigi Sohn, a former senior Democratic official at the FCC, told NPR that the Trump administration's moves are unprecedented.

"What he has done here—using the bully pulpit to essentially intimidate a major network into canceling one of its hours—there's nothing that comes close in the history of the Federal Communications Commission," she said. "It doesn't matter if it's Republican or Democrat. It's so beyond the pale, that it's difficult to conceive."

TREND FORECAST: *As a Presidential Reality Show® champion, Trump understands the importance of media control and that any news organization reporting on what may be considered by others as negative actions committed by the government, he condemns as "fake news media."*

Trump's administration has largely taken this aggressive approach to dealing with the press, none better than Pete Hegseth, the head of the Pentagon, who seems to try to go viral with his attacks on what they call fake news. (See "ATTACK, ATTACK, ATTACK: TRUMP TEAM TRIES ITS BEST TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE AMID SIGNAL CHAT FALLOUT," 1 Apr 2025.)

This is just the beginning of a radical government censorship administration, and those opposed to White House demands will be punished to the fullest degree of the laws they impose to punish the opposition.

TRUMP RAMPS UP MILITARY PRESENCE NEAR VENEZUELA IN NAKED ATTEMPT TO OUST MADURO

President Donald Trump has ramped up the U.S. military presence near Venezuela to a level that makes it hard to believe that these assets are only in place to intercept small drug speedboats.

The New York Times, citing experts, reported that the U.S. positioned eight warships and 4,500 troops in international waters off Venezuela, which would not be sufficient for a land invasion, but suggests there could be preparations to carry out a "clandestine" operation inside the country.

Andres Oppenheimer, a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, wrote last week that a strike "may happen sooner than you expect."

Frank Mora, a Florida International University professor and former senior Pentagon official in charge of Latin America, told Oppenheimer that he did not believe a land invasion of Venezuela is likely, given the troop amount. Mora theorized that you would need about 250,000 troops for such an effort.

Evan Ellis, a professor at the U.S. Army War College and former Trump administration official, told him that it is more likely that the U.S. would carry out a hit-and-run operation, like we saw in Iran.

Ellis said the operation could be to capture Nicolás Maduro, the country's president, or hit a target inside the country.

In recent weeks, Trump has repositioned naval assets into international waters close to Venezuela to apply pressure on Maduro, who Trump has identified as a cartel leader.

Trump has been working to destabilize Maduro's rule in the country since his first term in office, and now that he has Marco Rubio as his chief diplomat, that effort has gotten even bolder.

Rubio was in Mexico City earlier this month and told reporters that the old way of dealing with drug enforcement has been grossly ineffective.

"Interdiction doesn't work," he said, when asked about the U.S.'s earlier strike on an alleged drug boat that killed 11.

Rubio said the way that you stop the drug flow is that you "blow them up when you get rid of them," according to the *Times.* "And it'll happen again. Maybe it's happening right now, I don't know, but the point is the president of the United States is going to wage war on narcoterrorists.

The paper said it is clear that Rubo has "cast himself as a top general in that war."

Trump has insisted that his goal in Venezuela is not regime change and the White House has insisted that the troop presence is intended only to stop the flow of drugs into the U.S.

The State Department, which is led by Rubio, said last month that Maduro has led the Cartel de los Soles, which is considered by the Trump administration to be a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) organization.

Yvan Gil, Venezuela's top diplomat, said on his Telegram channel that the U.S. decision to increase the bounty is "pathetic" and nothing more than a naked "political propaganda operation."

France 24 reported that Trump refused to rule out the possibility of carrying out targeted strikes in Venezuela on Sunday, telling reporters: “We’ll see what happens.”

“Venezuela is sending us their gang members, their drug dealers and drugs. It's not acceptable,” he said.

Maduro has accused the Trump administration of carrying out extrajudicial killings and trying to provoke Caracas into war.

Adm. James G. Stavridis, the former head of the Pentagon’s Southern Command, told *The Times* that the “massive naval flotilla” – joined by F-35 fighters in Puerto Rico – has “little to do with actual drug interdiction – they represent operational overkill.”

“Rather, they are a clear signal to Nicholás Maduro that the administration is growing serious about accomplishing regime or behavioral change from Caracas. Gunboat diplomacy is back, and it may well work,” he said.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported extensively on Trump’s effort to oust Maduro back when he was first elected President and how he keeps ramping up the war against Maduro now that he was reelected President. See:*

- *“AS FORECAST: U.S. LEADS COUP IN VENEZUELA” (31 Jan 2019)*
- *“U.S. LEADING AND ACCELERATING THE COUP IN VENEZUELA” (13 Mar 2019)*
- *“REGIME CHANGE IN VENEZUELA: MADE IN U.S.A.” (15 May 2019)*
- *“VENEZUELA: U.S.-LED COUP FAILING” (17 Dec 2019)*
- *“VENEZUELA: GET READY FOR WAR” (11 Feb 2020)*
- *“VENEZUELA: U.S. LOVES REGIME CHANGE” (25 Feb 2020)*
- *“WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, THEY TAKE YOU TO WAR” (31 Mar 2020)*
- *“VENEZUELA: CACHES & WARSHIPS” (14 Apr 2020)*
- *“VENEZUELA: WHO BOTCHED THE COUP?” (12 May 2020)*
- *“EUROPEAN UNION SNUBS GUAIDÓ” (12 Jan 2021)*
- *“BIDEN RECOGNIZES VENEZUELA’S GUAIDÓ AS PRESIDENT” (26 Jan 2021)*
- *“BIDEN RENEWS “STATE OF EMERGENCY” SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA” (9 Mar 2021)*

- *"AFTER DESTROYING VENEZUELA'S ECONOMY, NOW U.S. WANTS THEIR OIL" (15 Mar 2022)*
- *"U.S. BETS ON THE WRONG HORSE IN VENEZUELA AS GUAIDÓ FLEES TO MIAMI" (2 May 2023)*
- *"MADURO WINS IN VENEZUELA AS U.S. QUESTIONS RESULTS" (30 Jul 2024)*

And remember, this is Trump who sold himself as a peace candidate when he ran for president last year, and when he took office in January he said, "I'm moving quickly to end wars, settle conflicts and restore the planet to peace. I want peace."

The Miami Herald said Maduro will have a hard time trying to keep his fragile coalition working, but the paper noted that he survived Trump five years ago by selling oil and gold on the black market.

Rubio called Maduro a "horrible dictator" who will have to be "dealt with." (See "MADURO WINS IN VENEZUELA AS U.S. QUESTIONS RESULTS," 30 Jul 2024.)

Pete Hegseth, the head of the defense department who is always ready to provide a soundbite pretending to be Gen. George Patton, vowed that the U.S. will track drug smugglers and "dismantle their networks throughout our hemisphere—at the times and places of our choosing."

Elizabeth Dickinson, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group, told The Times that the Trump administration's recent bombing attacks on alleged drug boats in international waters near Venezuela are seen as "warning shots that portend the possibility of further escalation." (See "SUSPECTED DRUG BOAT THAT TRUMP ORDERED TO BE BOMBED WAS REPORTEDLY TURNING AROUND WHEN HIT BY U.S. MISSILE," 16 Sep 2025.)

Trump recently posted that Maduro needs to take back prisoners in the U.S. and individuals in "mental institutions or pay an "incalculable" price.

Trump was asked about the threat by reporters on Saturday and he said, "Well, you're going to have to figure that out."

TRUMP ORDERS THIRD STRIKE ON ALLEGED DRUG BOAT AS CONCERNS ABOUT LEGALITY SURFACE IN PENTAGON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Friday that the U.S. military launched its third strike on an alleged drug vessel in the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility in the Caribbean, resulting in the deaths of what he described as three "male narcoterrorists."

The president posted on social media that the "lethal kinetic strike" occurred in international waters.

"On my Orders, the Secretary of War ordered a lethal kinetic strike on a vessel affiliated with a Designated Terrorist Organization conducting narcotrafficking in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility," Trump posted on Truth Social. "Intelligence confirmed the vessel was trafficking illicit narcotics, and was transiting along a known narcotrafficking passage enroute to poison Americans. No U.S. Forces were harmed in this strike. STOP SELLING FENTANYL, NARCOTICS, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS IN AMERICA, AND COMMITTING VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICANS!!!."

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported on the two previous strikes on these alleged drug speed boats after the U.S. moved naval assets into international waters in the Caribbean. Trump has tried to justify these strikes by taking the position that these alleged smugglers are the equivalent of Al Qaeda terrorists. (See "SUSPECTED DRUG BOAT THAT TRUMP ORDERED TO BE BOMBED WAS REPORTEDLY TURNING AROUND WHEN HIT BY U.S. MISSILE" 16 Sep 2025, "PENTAGON OFFICIAL: TRUMP'S STRIKE ON ALLEGED DRUG SPEEDBOAT FROM VENEZUELA WAS CRIMINAL ATTACK ON CIVILIANS" 9 Sept 2025 and "TRUMP CARRIES OUT ILLEGAL KILLING AFTER ORDERING BOMBING OF ALLEGED DRUG-SMUGGLING SPEEDBOAT FROM VENEZUELA" 9 Sept 2025.)*

Pete Hegseth, the Defense Department head, argued that "every boatload of any form of drugs that poisons the American people is an imminent threat. And at the DoD our job is to defeat imminent threats. A foreign terrorist organization poisoning your people with drugs coming from a drug cartel is no different than Al Qaeda, and they will be treated as such on international waters."

Part of the White House's argument that it was a legitimate strike was that it designated the alleged traffickers as part of the Venezuelan criminal gang Tren de Aragua, which has been designated a terrorist organization in Washington. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, whom the White House wants out, has been described as a drug kingpin, which has raised speculation that the true effort behind these strikes is to destabilize the Maduro regime. (Scott Ritter, the former UN weapons inspector, told ***The Trends Journal*** *last week that Maduro's days as the leader of the country are numbered because of this effort.)*

More Legal Concerns

Lawyers inside the Pentagon have started to raise additional questions about these strikes, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, citing unnamed sources. These lawyers noted that some U.S. politicians have called these strikes nothing more than murder on the high seas. Hegseth fired top judge advocates general (JAGs) from the Air Force and Army back in February to help alleviate "roadblocks" for such strikes, according to The Intercept.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., asked, "How do we know [the boat] was coming to the U.S.? Are we going to blow up every boat? It is just insane."

Some Pentagon officials worry that the military personnel involved in the strikes could be "personally liable," the paper said.

Sarah Harrison, a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group, told the paper that Trump ordered these executions "without any public dissent from the military, and so that should concern everyone, given there's no clear restraints on, now, the military's use of force."

TRENDPOST: *Trump picked Hegseth, a former Fox News mouthpiece, to lead the Pentagon because he is the loyalist that the president wants to make sure the department does what he wants—no questions asked. (See "SUSPECTED DRUG BOAT THAT TRUMP ORDERED TO BE BOMBED WAS REPORTEDLY TURNING AROUND WHEN HIT BY U.S. MISSILE," 16 Sep 2025.)*

Of course, the administration has not provided any evidence that the individuals it bombed were, in fact, carrying drugs. When Trump was asked about an earlier strike, he said that the "proof" was "the cargo that was spattered all over the ocean, big bags of cocaine and fentanyl all over the place."

That's the kind of moronic response that sits well with Trump's supporters.

LICENSE TO KILL: DRAFT LEGISLATION COULD GIVE TRUMP THE CHANCE TO KILL ANYONE HE DEEMS A 'TERRORIST'

Ever since U.S. President Donald Trump took office, he has ramped up his war on drugs by identifying international cartels as terrorists and using that distinction to justify military strikes on alleged drug speed boats out of Venezuela.

Trump has been met with some criticism that the strikes were nothing more than government-sanctioned murder, but there is reportedly a draft proposal that has been passed through the halls of the White House that would grant the president "sweeping power" to take military actions against those he considers narcoterrorists and the countries that shelter them.

The New York Times, citing people familiar with the matter, said it is unclear who penned the authorization and if it could pass the Republican-controlled Congress. The paper said the proposal was vague but raised concerns—even inside the executive branch.

The paper reported that the Trump administration did not confirm the existence of such a proposal or how far along it was. The report noted that Congress has not approved Trump's military action against these alleged members of drug cartels trying to enter the U.S. The draft legislation would be seen as possible legal protection for the administration and troops that carried out the deadly strikes in international waters off Venezuela.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported on Trump's decision to carry out deadly strikes on these speed boats that were allegedly carrying drugs, was by the details, an act of crime by Washington.*

(See "SUSPECTED DRUG BOAT THAT TRUMP ORDERED TO BE BOMBED WAS REPORTEDLY TURNING AROUND WHEN HIT BY U.S. MISSILE" 16 Sep 2025, "PENTAGON OFFICIAL: TRUMP'S STRIKE ON ALLEGED DRUG SPEEDBOAT FROM VENEZUELA WAS CRIMINAL ATTACK ON CIVILIANS" 9 Sept 2025 and "TRUMP CARRIES OUT ILLEGAL KILLING AFTER ORDERING BOMBING OF ALLEGED DRUG-SMUGGLING SPEEDBOAT FROM VENEZUELA" 9 Sept 2025.)

And as we reported, U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Mich, issued a statement that noted that the U.S. Congress has not declared war on Venezuela or the gang and the "mere designation of a group as a terrorist organization does not give any president carte blanche to ignore our Congress's clear constitutional authority on matters of war and peace."

She said the strike was in clear violation of international law because there was no compelling evidence to suggest that the strike was in self-defense.

Diosdado Cabello, the Venezuelan minister of interior, called the strike an "illegal massacre in international waters."

Gerald Celente spoke with Judge Andre Napolitano about the strike on the alleged cartel speedboat and Napolitano said the attack was tantamount to murder.

Trump's administration has framed it as a War on Drugs, given that so many Americans die from drug overdoses each year. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said about 80,400 people died from drug overdoses in 2024, which marked a 27 percent decrease from about 110,000.)

Vice President JD Vance posted on X: "Killing cartel members who poison our fellow citizens is the highest and best use of our military."

Trump believes that he has the legal right to carry out such attacks under wartime rules, when the U.S. can kill on sight, the paper said. Trump and his administration called these alleged smugglers "terrorists" from the Venezuelan gang called Tren de Aragua.

Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard Law School professor, told The Times that the draft proposal would essentially give Trump a "blank check" to kill whomever he identifies as a terrorist.

"It's insanely broad," Goldsmith said. "This is an open-ended war authorization against an untold number of countries, organizations and persons that the president could deem within its scope."

The paper said the proposal appeared reminiscent of the powers that former President George W. Bush was granted in 2001—after the attacks of 9/11. The paper said, similar to that authorization, the new draft does not name an enemy and would empower the sitting president to "decide whom to target—and is not confined to geographical limits."

The paper noted that the approval that Bush received seemed to evolve over time from initially being understood to mean members of Al Qaeda and the Taliban, but the definition seemed to widen over time and was used to justify strikes across the Middle East region.

The paper said the draft proposal would expire after five years, the Bush-era one is still in place and would need to be voted out by Congress.

ERIC TRUMP: CRYPTOS MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE THE U.S. DOLLAR

Eric Trump, who has emerged as a major crypto cheerleader since daddy's election win in 2024, said earlier this month that he believes that cryptocurrencies could end up saving the dollar because of the potential of foreign investments from "trillions from around the world in wonky currencies."

Eric Trump has co-founded World Liberty Financial, which launched a stablecoin tied to the USD, and co-founded American Bitcoin, a bitcoin mining company just listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market earlier this month. Eric Trump and his older brother, Donald Trump Jr., own 98 percent of the company that merged with American Data Centers and Hut 8 back in March. (His stake is worth about $500 million, according to the *FT*)

"Mining bitcoin here, and being financially independent and running a kind of financial revolution [out] of the United States… I think it arguably saves the US dollar," Eric Trump said, according to the *FT.*

The USD's value increased against other world currencies shortly after Trump was elected in November, but by July 2025, the dollar lost about 11 percent of its value, which marked the largest decline for the greenback in the first half of the year since 1973, according to Politifact.

The *FT* reported that the U.S.'s trade war and Trump's effort to bully the Federal Reserve have all taken their toll on the dollar.

TRENDPOST: *What a difference a few years make.*

It's worth reminding readers that President Trump was once one of bitcoin's top critics and once posted that he is "not a fan" of bitcoin or other cryptos, "which are not money, and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air."

In 2021, when out of office, Trump repeated his skepticism and said: "Bitcoin, it just seems like a scam. I don't like it because it's another currency competing against the dollar."

Trump has since changed his tune and his family is involved with nearly every element of cryptos, from mining to meme coins to stablecoins. (See "TRUMP FAMILY'S CRYPTO VENTURES ARE PERFORMING BETTER THAN ANY OTHER TRUMP BUSINESS" 19 Aug 2025, "TRUMP'S SONS TALK AT BITCOIN CONFERENCE, TAKE AIM AT TRADITIONAL BANKS" 3 Jun 2025, "ETHICAL CONCERNS MOUNT OVER TRUMP'S CRYPTO VENTURE" 11 Mar 2025 and "TRUMP NAMES CRYPTOCURRENCIES FOR STRATEGIC RESERVE, SPARKING RALLY" 4 Mar 2025.)

The Wall Street Journal reported in August that the Trump family's business venture into crypto has generated $4.5 billion more than any of his other companies.

Eric Trump seems to take after his father in his ability to bullshit the public, and has, smartly, tried to describe the Trump family's move into cryptos as a necessity because of an unfair banking industry.

The FT noted that the son said financial success is the "ultimate revenge" on these banks and that he realized that he does not need them.

"And frankly, you don't miss them," he said.

***TREND FORECAST:** President Trump will continue to do all that he can to make sure that his crypto investors and family are successful in their ventures. Bitcoin, the world's most popular crypto, as of early Monday morning, is up 78.98 percent in the past year to $113,005.20, but gains have slowed in the last month, and BTC is just up 0.05 percent during that time.*

There was a golden statue of President Trump that was temporarily put up in the National Mall in Washington, D.C., last week that depicted him holding a bitcoin.

The permit that was submitted to the National Park Service said, "Recognizing the president's support for cryptocurrency and its role in pushing Bitcoin's value beyond

$100,000, this artistic installation aims to ignite discussion in this iconic location," according to USA Today.

MONEY TALKS, BULLSHIT WALKS: BILLIONAIRE WINKLEVOSS TWINS HELP DERAIL TRUMP PICK FOR CFTC CHAIR

The pro-Trump Winklevoss twins, two heavy hitters in the crypto ecosystem who have backed U.S. President Donald Trump's successful 2024 presidential campaign, reportedly "derailed" Trump's pick to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and there are new possible candidates that are being weighed.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss's bad blood with Brian Quintenz became public earlier this month when the nominee for the role posted on X a private text message chain with Tyler Winklevoss that he said showed that the twins were gunning for him.

The text messages illustrated Tyler Winklevoss's frustration with the previous administration, which he accused of overseeing "7 years of lawfare trophy hunting" in their crypto exchange called Gemini.

"It's outrageous what they did to us," the Trump supporter wrote.

The paper noted that Quintenz appeared to be sympathetic to the twin's claim, but he stressed that he would not be able to weigh in on the matter until he was confirmed.

"It's my understanding that after this exchange they contacted the President and asked that my confirmation be paused for reasons other than what is reflected in these texts," he posted, noting that Trump "may have been misled" by the twins.

TRENDPOST: *The Wall Street Journal noted that it seemed as though the Winklevoss brothers were "flexing their Washington influence" with Trump in the White House. They backed his campaign with millions in donations, Coin Telegraph reported.*

The twins, who Trump has called male models with "big, beautiful brains," have also made a "strategic investment" in American Bitcoin, the mining company that was co-founded by Trump's sons. Yahoo Finance reported that the investment deepened their "relationship with the current administration, following their $2 million contribution to Trump's 2024 campaign and participation in key White House crypto events."

Lee Reiners, a lecturing fellow at Duke, told the paper that it seemed that the twins were having a temper tantrum.

"This is about wanting revenge and wanting to punish people…It's not necessarily about policy going forward," Reiners said.

The Trends Journal *has reported extensively on how Trump was once anti-bitcoin to becoming one of its biggest cheerleaders. Trump has been working on paying back his largest crypto donors since the election. (See "TRUMP CRYPTO ADVISER ANNOUNCES $300M BTC INVESTMENT FIRM" 13 May 2025, "TRUMP FAMILY'S CRYPTO VENTURES ARE PERFORMING BETTER THAN ANY OTHER TRUMP BUSINESS" 19 Aug 2025, and "TRUMP EXTENDS CRYPTO REACH WITH NEW PUSH FOR REGULATIONS TO ENABLE MORE CRYPTO TRADING" 5 Aug 2025.)*

TREND FORECAST: The Trends Journal *has been bullish on BTC for nearly a decade, and when Trump got over $100 million from the crypto club for his presidential campaign and tens of millions from them for his inauguration, we had forecast that BTC prices would spike… and they have. This is only the beginning of the effort by Trump to enrich himself and donors.*

Tyler Winklevoss told CNBC last week that BTC is still in its infancy.

"It's still very much the bottom of the first inning, because we see bitcoin trading at $1 million a Bitcoin, if it disrupts gold," he said. He continued, "It's still really early. And I

think we'll be sitting here 10 years from now and looking back and saying, 'Wow, today was really early.'"

UNUSUAL COINCIDENCE: HEAD OF UAE'S SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND DEPOSITS $2B IN TRUMP'S SONS' WORLD LIBERTY FINANCIAL JUST BEFORE U.S. ALLOWS EMIRATES TO BUY MOST ADVANCED COMPUTER CHIPS

An investment firm tied to Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan deposited $2 billion into World Liberty Financial, the cryptocurrency company led by U.S. President Donald Trump's sons and the son of his top envoy Steve Witkoff, just two weeks before the administration allowed Abu Dhabi to have access to the world's most powerful computer chips—raising new ethical concerns.

The New York Times reported that Tahnoon controls the $1.5 trillion Emiratis' sovereign wealth fund and, weeks before the deal—in May—the sheikh met with Steve Witkoff on a yacht off the Italian coast. The paper noted that it does not have evidence that one deal has anything to do with the other, the close relationship between Tahnoon and Steve Witkoff, whose son, Zach, is one of the founders of World Liberty Financial, seems to "test the limits of ethical rules while enriching the president."

The paper reported that under the chip deal, billions of dollars' worth of advanced chips would be sold to Tahnoon's G42, a technology firm, which seems to brush aside lingering concerns about the risks of these chips falling into the hands of the Chinese. The paper noted that the company has a "wide range" of business partnerships with companies in China.

The paper said it interviewed 75 individuals in the know, who said David Sachs, a member of the Peter Thiel mafia who is playing the role of Trump's crypto czar, played

a role in the chip deal. (The paper said Sachs continued to work in Silicon Valley even while holding the White House post and obtained a waiver from the administration that allowed him to participate. The administration said Sachs had no financial interests in the deal.)

Sacks has argued that the U.S. will be forced to make a decision: does it want rich countries like the UAE to buy these advanced chips from China or the U.S.

Steve Witkoff, a real estate developer and personal friend of Trump, was a big supporter of providing the UAE with the chips, which would normally be fine. But the fact that the World Liberty Financial deal was in the works at the time raised concerns about rules that don't allow government officials to "participate in matters that could benefit themselves or their relatives."

The White House rejected any connection between the World Liberty Financial investment and the chip deal. The Trump team was forced to clarify that although it said Steve Witkoff planned to fully divest from his investment in World Liberty Financial in May, he is still in the process of unwinding that investment.

The paper noted that the $2 billion investment from Tahnoon was transformative for the company, which was formed two months before the election, because it will earn the company "tens of millions of dollars" in profits each year alone.

The election win for Trump introduced Steve Witkoff to a new career in high-stakes diplomacy, which has also, naturally, put him in close contact with the world's most powerful people.

The paper said it spoke to three ethics lawyers who said the deals clearly violate what have been the norms in the U.S. when it comes to deal-making.

TRENDPOST: *It is worth noting that Trump Special Envoy Steve Witkoff's little boy Zach is a cofounder of World Liberty Financial, along with Trump's little boys, Donald, Eric, and Barron.*

The Trends Journal *has reported extensively on how Trump has used his second term to enrich himself and his family in the crypto world. This, of course, is not unusual in Washington, but he just does it more blatantly than previous presidents. (See "TRUMP'S SONS TALK AT BITCOIN CONFERENCE, TAKE AIM AT TRADITIONAL BANKS" 3 Jun 2025, "ETHICAL CONCERNS MOUNT OVER TRUMP'S CRYPTO VENTURE" 11 Mar 2025 and "TRUMP NAMES CRYPTOCURRENCIES FOR STRATEGIC RESERVE, SPARKING RALLY" 4 Mar 2025.)*

Again, as we say in The Bronx, "Money talks, bullshit walks." And to prove that Trump is a bullshit king and money talks, this is from AI Overview:

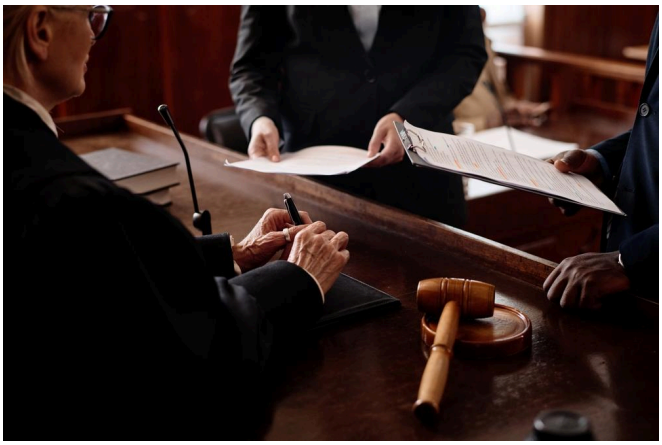
Key points from Trump's previous stance:

- *Bitcoin is "based on thin air": Trump famously stated he was "not a fan of Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies" because their value was "highly volatile and based on thin air".*
- *Bitcoin competes with the dollar: He expressed concern that Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies were competing with the US dollar, which he wanted to remain the world's dominant currency.*
- *Facilitates unlawful behavior: Trump also raised concerns that unregulated crypto assets could facilitate illegal activities, including drug trafficking.*
- *Called Bitcoin a "scam": In a 2021 interview, Trump referred to Bitcoin as a "scam" against the dollar.*

Zach Witkoff, who worked for his father's real estate company as a project manager, has not tried to hide his close ties with Trump, and has used the connection as part of his sales pitch to would-be investors that the president is "like a godfather," and assures them that his company would be able to act quickly on new regulations that help it stand apart from competitors, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The Times reported that the World Liberty stablecoin has a fixed price of $1, which the paper said is appealing to investors because its value does not fluctuate like other cryptos.

FEDERAL JUDGE REJECTS TRUMP'S $15B DEFAMATION SUIT AGAINST THE NEW YORK TIMES



President Donald Trump's effort to squeeze $15 billion out of *The New York Times* was rejected by a federal judge on Friday, who called the lawsuit "superfluous" with "florid" allegations.

Trump's legal team submitted an 85-page lawsuit in Tampa, Fla. The suit followed a post from Trump on Truth Social that said the paper has been free to "lie, smear, and defame" him for "far too long."

The lawsuit identified a book written by Russ Buettner and Susanne Craig that looked into the president's finances, according to the Associated Press. Trump took issue with the two, indicating that Mark Burnett, the producer from "The Apprentice," was the key impetus for Trump's rise to fame.

The AP reported that the lawsuit said these reporters must have known that Trump was "already a mega-celebrity and enormous success in business" well before the show.

Judge Steven D. Merryday, of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, told Trump's team that it will be allowed another 28 days to resubmit the lawsuit.

Merryday took issue with the fact that Trump's lawyers leveled their allegations on the 80th page of the lawsuit and accused them of using the suit as a "public forum for vituperation and invective."

He wrote that a complaint is not a "protected platform to rage against an adversary.

The New York Times reported that Merryday, an appointee of President George H.W. Bush informed Trump's legal team to keep the next complaint to under 40 pages.

TRENDPOST: *Trump has been using his bully pulpit to sue media companies that he believes are biased against him. He has filed a $10 billion lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal over a report that he claimed was false about a birthday card he allegedly wrote to pedophile Jeffrey Epstein. (See "WHAT ARE THEY HIDING? SENATE REPUBLICANS VOTE TO STOP THE RELEASE OF THE EPSTEIN FILES" 16 Sep 2025, "OUTRAGE OVER TRUMP NOT RELEASING EPSTEIN FILES, NO OUTRAGE THAT HE FACILITATES ISRAELI GENOCIDE" 22 Jul 2025, and "TRUMP MOCKED FOR DEMANDING GRAND JURY TESTIMONY FROM EPSTEIN CASE" 22 Jul 2025.)*

These lawsuits have been relatively lucrative for Trump. He managed to pull in $16 million from ABC News and CBS News over what he saw as unfavorable news coverage.

The Times noted that Trump sued the paper in 2021 over its probe into his tax history, and the suit was eventually dismissed. Trump was forced to pay the paper's legal bills, the report said.

A spokesperson for Trump's legal team said in a statement that Trump will continue to "hold the Fake News accountable through this powerhouse lawsuit against the New York Times, its reporters, and Penguin Random House, in accordance with the judge's direction on logistics."

TRENDPOST: *As we have detailed when Trump won the race to the White House in 2016, like him or not, he was attacked without substance by the Democratic Party, and they even tried to impeach him. See:*

- *"ELECTION 2020: TRUMP BY DEFAULT" (10 Dec 2019)*
- *"PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®: THE GREATEST FREAK SHOW ON EARTH" (10 Mar 2020)*
- *"DEMOCRATS: IMPEACH TRUMP" (12 Jan 2021)*
- *"IMPEACHMENT STUPIDITY" (Feb 2020)*
- *"PUTIN ACKNOWLEDGES BIDEN'S ANTI-RUSSIAN RHETORIC" (13 Oct 2020)*

- *“U.S. CONTINUES TO RAMP UP COLD WAR 2 RHETORIC” (18 Jan 2022)*
- *“PUTIN ACCUSES U.S. OF TRYING TO PULL RUSSIA INTO CONFLICT” (8 Feb 2022)*
- *“LATEST DURHAM FILING STIRS ANTI-RUSSIA SENTIMENT IN U.S.” (22 Feb. 2022)*
- *“U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER A LIAR? BY HIS WORDS AND DEEDS, WE’RE AT WAR WITH RUSSIA” (22 Sep 2022)*
- *“U.S. AT WAR WITH RUSSIA: 101ST AIRBORNE READY TO FIGHT AT MOMENT’S NOTICE: REPORT” (25 Oct 2022)*
- *“THE FBI MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR RUSSIAGATE” (23 May 2023)*
- *“DURHAM REPORT PROVES U.S. LIES TO ITS PEOPLE TO PROMOTE “HATE RUSSIA” PROPAGANDA” (23 May 2023)*

CELL TOWER DEVELOPERS REPORTEDLY MISLEAD RESIDENTS ABOUT NEED FOR NEW TOWERS

Robert Berg, an attorney, told Children's Health Defense that companies that build cell phone towers often lie to the public about the need for such structures in hopes of bamboozling "the local government into claiming a need that doesn't really exist."

Berg has been working on behalf of residents who are in opposition to the construction of new towers out of fear over the health risks when developed near residential areas or schools. The report said these wireless companies are obligated to prove that a new tower is required for connectivity before they get new towers approved.

Berg told the outlet that these wireless companies often showcase their own "radiofrequency (RF) propagation maps" that claim to lay out where there are

coverage gaps, yet these models often exaggerate the lack of service. Berg said the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has its own broadband map that often contradicts the claims from these companies.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal *has reported on how the public is exposed to radio frequencies that it is completely unaware of that could have a serious impact on health. See:*

- *"THE 5G GAMBLE" (21 Nov 2018)*
- *"DEATH BY CELL PHONE" (15 Aug 2018)*
- *"BEYOND YOUR HEALTH, 5G, WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY DESTROYS JOBS, ENVIRONMENTS, LIBERTIES" (15 May 2019)*
- *"DENMARK TURNS DOWN 5G" (8 Oct 2019)*
- *"SWITZERLAND SUSPENDS 5G DEPLOYMENT" (25 Feb 2020)*
- *"SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS GROWING ABOUT 5G HEALTH DANGERS" (28 Apr 2020)*
- *"SMART PHONES = BRAIN ROTTING STUPID" (13 Jul 2021)*
- *"5G HEALTH RISKS: HOW MUCH EXPOSURE CAN HUMANS WITHSTAND?" (23 Aug 2022)*
- *"U.S. INVESTS $1.5 BILLION TO SPUR 5G ROLLOUT DESPITE NEW EVIDENCE OF 'DEVASTATING' HEALTH ISSUES" (2 May 2023)*
- *"CELL PHONE USE LINKED TO SPERM ISSUES" (7 Nov 2023)*
- *"TEN NEW STUDIES DETAIL HEALTH RISKS OF 5G" (16 Apr 2024)*
- *"MAN SUES WIRELESS PROVIDERS FOR CAUSING SEVERE ILLNESS" (Jan 16, 2024)*
- *"TEN NEW STUDIES DETAIL HEALTH RISKS OF 5G" (16 Apr 2024)*
- *"CELL PHONE RADIATION LED TO 'CLUMPING' IN WOMAN'S BLOOD: STUDY" 6 May 2025*
- *"WIRELESS RADIATION SICKNESS GETS A NEW NAME – 'EMR SYNDROME'" 15 Apr 2025*
- *"HIGH LEVELS OF HI-TECH RADIATION INSIDE HOMES MAY BE LINKED TO DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS" 26 Aug 2025.)*

A review published in April in Environmental International and backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) found that evidence backs the theory that radiation from

cell phones can cause cancers in animals—including gliomas in the brain and tumors in the heart. (See "WHO-BACKED STUDY FINDS 'HIGH CERTAINTY' OF LINK BETWEEN CELLPHONE RADIATION AND CANCER IN ANIMALS," 6 May 2025.)

Danger Ahead?

Berg told the outlet that the U.S. has laws in place that require wireless companies to keep the FCC informed about coverage, which the agency monitors closely. He said the FCC has taken enforcement actions where these companies have provided inaccurate information.

"If you compare the carrier's map to the FCC National Broadband Map, you'll oftentimes see that on the national broadband map, there's 100% coverage for that carrier in that very geographic neighborhood where the carrier is saying there's no coverage or there's not sufficient coverage," he told *Children's Health Defense.*

TREND FORECAST: *The report noted that the FCC has a meeting scheduled later this month that will focus, in part, on new wireless infrastructure in the U.S., and Berg told the outlet that he plans to challenge some of the locations where towers could be developed.*

U.S. President Donald Trump's family is trying to make money in the wireless business with T1 Mobile, which the Trump Organization said is "a transformational, new cellular service designed to deliver top-tier connectivity, unbeatable value and all-American service for our nation's hardest-working people."

The Financial Times reported in June that the 5G mobile service is available "through all three major cellular carriers" in the United States.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE

by Ben Daviss

BREAKTHROUGH MAKES CHIPS FASTER, CHEAPER, AND TOO SMALL TO SEE

A global team working with partners at Johns Hopkins University has invented a new way to make computer chips, including a new material, that processes data using light as well as electricity.

The new process yields chips that work faster and are less costly to make, according to the developers.

Perhaps most important, the chips are too small for the unaided eye to see. That would make it possible to pack more chips into a device, speeding processing and

giving electric cars, cellphones, computers, tablets, and other devices far more capacities.

One roadblock to the faster, cheaper, smaller computers of the future “has been finding a process for making smaller features in a production line where you irradiate materials quickly and with absolute precision to make the process economical,” computer engineer Michael Tsapatsis said in a statement.

The lasers needed to print circuits on chips far smaller than current ones exist, he noted, but the industry needed new materials and processes to make chips as tiny as designers have envisioned.

Current computer chips are wafers of silicon coated with a material sensitive to radiation. The fine coating is called a “resist.” When a beam of laser radiation strikes the resist, it sparks a chemical reaction. Steering the beam in patterns across the chip embeds circuitry in specific patterns.

However, more powerful lasers are needed to etch circuits into smaller and smaller chips. Those stronger beams don’t interact well with the compounds now used to make resists.

Tsapatsis's lab and its partners at Johns Hopkins found a new kind of metal-organic material that can be used as a resistor in those microscopic chips.

The metal-organics are part of a new manufacturing process the creators have called “beyond extreme ultraviolet radiation” (B-EUV). The process can cut details into chips finer than today’s 10-nanometer limit.

The metal-organic compounds absorb the high-powered laser beams and release electrons that spark chemical reactions that then allow the lasers to imprint circuit patterns into an organic material called imidazole.

A key breakthrough was finding a way to lay the metal organics onto the tiny chips in a way that controls their thickness with perfect precision. The Hopkins team integrated

discoveries and models from institutions in China, Switzerland, and the U.S. to create a process they named “chemical liquid deposition.”

The process is flexible enough to allow engineers to quickly test various combinations and thicknesses of metals and imidazoles.

"By playing with the two components (metal and imidazole), you can change the efficiency of absorbing the light and the chemistry of the reactions,” Tsapatsis said. "There are at least 10 different metals that can be used for this chemistry, and hundreds of organics."

TRENDPOST: *Artificial intelligence, breakthroughs in chip miniaturization, and advances in quantum computing are transforming the range and scale of things computers will be able to do. By mid-century, these changes will revolutionize scientific research, medical treatment, the global economy, and the way we live.*

CHEAP CATALYST CAN END SORTING PLASTICS FOR RECYCLING

One reason relatively few people recycle their plastics is that recycling centers want us to separate our #1 from our #5 and remember that #7 has no market and has to be thrown in the trash. Who has the time – or the commitment?

The recycling industry also has to double-check to ensure that plastics are separated. Individual plastics contain specific ingredients that can’t be mixed with others. Ensuring that separation is tedious, time-consuming, and expensive.

Now scientists at Northwestern University think we can skip a lot of that. They’ve found a low-cost catalyst that breaks down several kinds of common plastics into oils that can be used to make fuels and lubricants.

“Our new catalyst could bypass this costly and labor-intensive step for common polyolefin plastics, making recycling more efficient, practical, and economically viable than current strategies,” project co-leader Tobin Marks said in a statement.

Polyolefins are the basis of plastic wrap, squeeze bottles, trash bags, and many other single-use plastic packaging. Globally, as much as 220 million tons of polyolefin-based products are made each year but little is reprocessed at recycling plants, largely because breaking polyolefins’ tough carbon-to-carbon bonds burns so much energy that to do so is financially impractical.

Northwestern’s new nickel-based catalyst targets just those bonds, snapping them but leaving enough of the rest of the plastic intact so it can be “upcycled” into products industry uses every day.

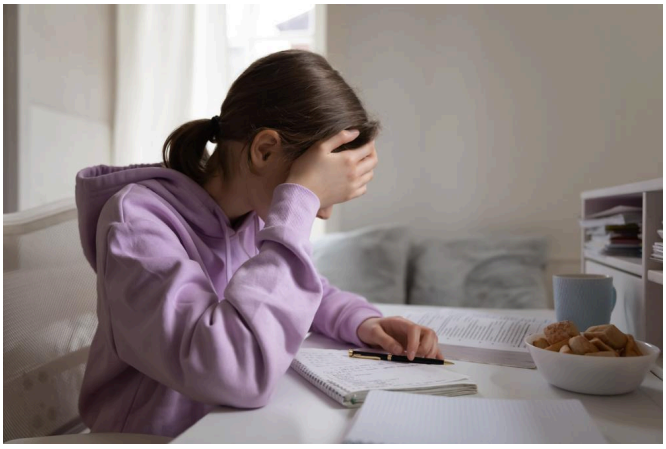
The catalyst works at a lower temperature and needs less hydrogen gas than conventional means of breaking down plastics.

It also works well with polyvinyl chloride, which can contaminate plastics so badly during normal recycling that the entire batch has to be thrown out. In the case of this catalyst, the presence of PVC actually speeds its work.

TRENDPOST: *We’ve reported on several other innovations in plastic recycling designed to make it easier, cheaper, and to make a way to create value. (See “Recycling Plastic With Microwaves” 18 May 2021, “Genetically Altered E. Coli Turn Plastic Waste Into Painkillers” 8 Jul 2025 and “Reprocessed Plastic Sucks Carbon Out of the Atmosphere” 16 Sep 2025, among other articles.)*

While these and other technologies are emerging that can make plastic waste manageable, or even valuable, more work needs to be done to substitute environmentally benign plastic for current versions, creating the infrastructure for new recycling methods, and changing the culture to make recycling your plastic a cool thing to do.

RESEARCHERS PINPOINT THE CAUSE OF ADHD



The cause of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has never been determined. Instead, the basket of symptoms has become a catch-all diagnosis for kids misbehaving and has millions around the world popping Adderall and Ritalin tablets like they're M&Ms.

Researchers have debated the cause since the syndrome was first described. Some argue it's genetic, while others favor environmental, biological, and even dietary factors.

Now a team of bioscientists working out of Japan's Chiba University seem to have found a definitive answer: ADHD brains are built in a different way.

Brain scans of people with ADHD have always been inconclusive. Now the Japanese group has tapped a scanning method called the "traveling subject" (TS) technique, which does a better job of filtering out the noise or static created in the images by the equipment itself.

Researchers in different places use different machines and tools. When they pool images to compare results, the variations in the electrical signatures of the various machines cloud and confuse the images. It becomes difficult to distinguish biological structures from noise, which sometimes is louder than the brain's signals.

Existing software designed to screen out the static can overcorrect, which erases biological information along with the interference. In ADHD, patterns in brain structure differing from the norm are subtle, so overcorrecting makes the resulting information useless.

The TS method does a better job of filtering out that interference. That allowed the Japanese researchers to reliably compare scans of kids with and without ADHD diagnoses.

With the technical interference removed, they found that kids with ADHD showed consistently smaller brain volumes in the parts of the brain controlling attention, decision-making, emotional regulation, executive function, and information processing, which all are challenges for children diagnosed with the condition.

TRENDPOST: *The Japanese work not only confirms that ADHD is a brain condition, but also validates the TS method as the reliable diagnostic tool for the syndrome. With a definitive cause known, precisely targeted treatments can be designed.*

At least as important, by benchmarking a reliable way to diagnose ADHD, the work gives physicians a dependable way to distinguish kids with the condition from those with emotional, behavioral, or other troubles that are often misdiagnosed as ADHD.

Because of those misdiagnoses, countless children have been prescribed, and some have become addicted to, drugs they don't need.

by Ben Daviss

DEEPSEEK SAYS ITS FLAGSHIP AI COST ONLY $294,000 TO TRAIN

DeepSeek, the Chinese AI developer that jolted the industry in January by releasing a world-class model that it said it built on the cheap, now says it spent just $294,000 to train it.

In contrast, major Western AI companies reportedly have spent tens of billions to train their models. In 2023, CEO San Altman of OpenAI said "foundational model training" had cost the company “much more” than $100 million.

DeepSeek's revelation early this year tanked tech stocks as investors questioned the economics of OpenAI, DeepMind, and similar developers.

The specific figure appeared in a peer-reviewed article in *Nature*, a leading global science and tech publication. It was the first time DeepSeek has named a specific figure for its R1 model's training cost.

The low-cost training was accomplished using 512 Nvidia 800 chips, the article said. The H800 has since been superseded by more advanced versions and is now banned for export to China from the U.S.

In a supplement to the Nature article, DeepSeek said it also used Nvidia's A100 chips for some prep work in developing the R1. The company said it acquired all of its Nvidia chips legally.

The cost of training is run up largely by operating clusters of powerful AI chips for weeks or months to imbue a model with the sea of code and text it needs to match patterns with information on the Internet so it can answer questions and requests from users.

DeepSeek's R1 was trained for just 80 hours, the company said.

Some U.S. AI companies have expressed skepticism about some of DeepSeek's claims.

TRENDPOST: *Financial figures coming out of China are often rightly subjects of skepticism. However, because the numbers appeared in an iconic global publication after peer review lends a measure of credibility to DeepSeek's claim.*

The report will reignite investors' concerns about possible overspending by AI developers and their own possible overinvestment.

If AIs can be trained in less than a week for the price of an average U.S. condo, that would mean a vast number of developers—private companies and even individuals—could train their own models designed specifically to their own purposes.

Democratizing AI development in that way could create a whole new tech boom but also would raise fears of rogue models roaming the web committing crimes and doing other damage. Probably both would come to pass.

OPENAI'S AMBITIONS OUTSPEND ITS INCOME

So far this year, OpenAI—which valued itself at $500 billion in a recent stock deal—has contracted for $60 billion a year in Oracle computing services, paid $18 billion as a partner in a data service project, spent $10 billion on state-of-the-art computer processors, and said it will build a brand new AI device.

Deals the company announced earlier this month have increased the market valuation of chip designer Broadcom and cloud services provider Oracle by $400 billion between them.

OpenAI also has told investors it expects to earn just $13 billion in revenue this year. Last fall, CEO Sam Altman told investors that his company will lose $44 billion from now into 2029 and not turn a profit until later that year.

Since introducing ChatGPT in November 2022, the company has banked, literally and figuratively, on the idea that eventually businesses and individuals will convert the bulk of their computer usage to AI. That, in turn, would send OpenAI's revenue soaring, richly rewarding investors, the theory says.

The company projects revenues of $100 billion by 2028 and $200 billion by 2029.

It could happen: OpenAI's CHAT systems have drawn 700 million users worldwide, it says, which would make it the fastest-growing app in history.

Investors have not been deterred by the current lopsided cost-return ratio. They have chipped in another $50 billion so far this year and Microsoft, OpenAI's biggest investor, has committed additional funds to help the business convert from a nonprofit to a for-profit enterprise.

However, if those investors are to profit while OpenAI fulfills its long to-do list, those hundreds of millions of users will need to start paying a lot more money for the company's products in the very near future.

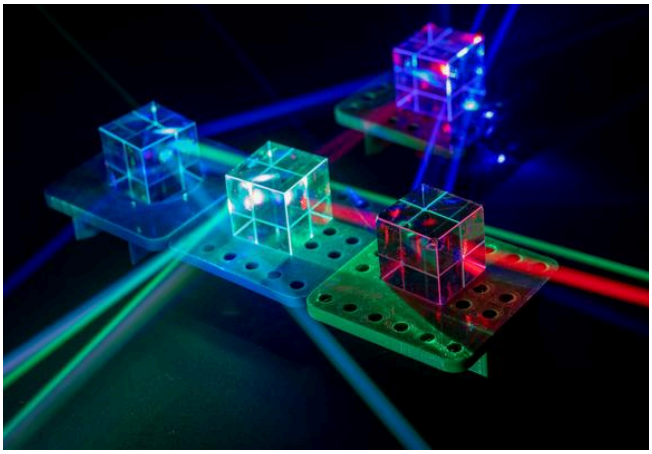
That looks like an iffy proposition.

Only about 3 percent of users now pay anything for AI services, according to a study by venture funder Menlo Ventures, which said "there is still a long way to go to everyday adoption."

A June survey by business services firm McKinsey & Co. found 80 percent of the businesses now using AI in some way have seen no bottom-line impact. An MIT project polled hundreds of companies and said AI has so far failed to make a significant contribution to revenue or profits.

Still, the dream lives on. The University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School has calculated that AI will increase U.S. productivity and GDP by 1.5 percent by 2035. Satya Nadella, Microsoft's CEO, recently said that AI's success should be judged by whether it grows the U.S. GDP by 10 percent a year, the rate at the peak of the first industrial revolution.

LIGHT-POWERED AI CHIP IS MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT, 100 TIMES FASTER



AI data centers could consume far less electricity, and process tasks as much as 100 times faster, thanks to a new graphics processing unit, or AI chip developed at the University of Florida.

Engineers there have been able to etch tiny lenses directly onto silicon chips. That allows the chips to use light as well as electricity to carry out a key AI function.

The function is called “convolution.” It allows AI systems to detect patterns in images, text, and video. Recognizing patterns is the way generative AI systems deliver or create images, text, and video in response to users’ instructions.

Convolution is the source of much of AI’s operational energy demands. Using light instead of electricity slashes energy use to nearly nothing and enables AI operations to take place at the speed of light.

The new chip converts machine learning data into pulses of laser light, which pass through a series of Fresnel lenses. The lenses, some narrower than a human hair, hold a series of concentric rings or grooves that enable them to carry out mathematical operations. The processed light emerging from the lenses is then converted back into a digital form.

"Performing a key machine learning computation at near zero energy is a leap forward for future AI systems," physicist and study leader Volker Sorger said in a press announcement. "This is critical to keep scaling up AI capabilities in years to come."

Prototypes of the optical chip classified handwritten digits correctly about 98 percent of the time, roughly the same accuracy as conventional computer chips.

The optical chips also can process several data streams at once simply by using different colors of light. "We can have multiple wavelengths, or colors, of light passing through the lens at the same time," Hangbo Yang, a member of the study group, said in the statement. "That's a key advantage of photonics."

TRENDPOST: *AI developers and electric utilities are scrambling to build as much new generating capacity as they can to power dozens of new data centers expected to be built in the next few years.*

At the same time, engineers in Florida and elsewhere are making breakthroughs to drastically cut data centers' power demands. The centers are likely to gravitate to any technologies that will cut their energy bills.

As a result, utilities risk overbuilding and being left with plants that make power no one is using.

Some in the industry aren't worried, saying that the world is being electrified to such an extent that any power plants being built now will find plenty of customers if not now, then in the near future.

CHINA CUTS OFF IMPORTS NVIDIA'S CUSTOM AI CHIP

The Cyberspace Administration of China has ordered AI companies, including major developers such as Alibaba and ByteDance, to halt all present and future orders for RTX Pro 6000D chips made by California-based Nvidia, the world's market leader in advanced AI processors, the *Financial Times* reported.

Nvidia specially designed the chips to comply with U.S. restrictions on exports of advanced computer technology to China.

The order follows a ruling by China's government earlier this month that Nvidia violated China's anti-monopoly laws by buying Mellanox Technologies in 2020 for $7 billion. About the same time, regulators said they are investigating U.S. trade practices related to a kind of chip made by Texas Instruments and other U.S. companies.

Soon before the mandate was made, several Chinese companies had signaled they would order tens of thousands of the chips. While China's domestic chip industry is progressing rapidly, their products remain less capable than Nvidia's. (See "DeepSeek is Unable to Train Its Next Model on Chinese Chips," 26 Aug 2025.)

In the summer, Beijing began pressuring firms to no longer use Nvidia's less-capable H20 chips from which the Trump administration lifted the sales ban earlier this year. The ban remains in place on Nvidia's state-of-the-art chips for fear of accelerating China's AI capacity for military uses.

Beijing decided to block imports of Nvidia's China-specific chip because it fears Nvidia's products are leaving Chinese companies' tech in the dust, persons familiar told the *FT*. Officials were worried that the domestic industry could become too reliant on the imports and thereby starve Chinese makers of business.

"China clearly prefers to develop AI at its own pace on a domestic tech stack," Vey-Sern Ling, managing director at Union Bancaire Privee, told the *FT*. "Better to bite the bullet now than to rely on U.S. tech that can be restricted upon a whim."

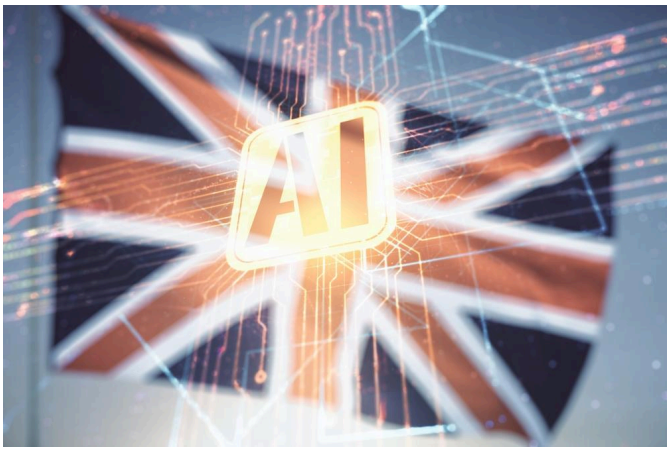
If and when China bans Nvidia outright, that "would show China's confidence in its local supply chain," he added, but for now the chips are "still likely a bargaining chip in the trade negotiations."

TRENDPOST: *As we have often said, the U.S. ban on selling advanced AI tech to China was politically necessary but self-defeating in practice.*

Beijing saw the bans not as an obstacle but as an opportunity to spur the same technology's domestic development.

Within a few years, China's chip tech will equal that of the West.

U.S. TECH MAJORS COMMIT BILLIONS TO BUILD U.K. AI INFRASTRUCTURE



U.S. AI giants including Google, Microsoft, Nvidia, and OpenAI have committed to invest tens of billions of dollars to equip the U.K. with an advanced AI infrastructure, including data centers and supercomputers.

Microsoft alone is putting up about $15 billion through 2028. The funds will support construction of Britain's largest supercomputer, with 23,000 AI chips. Nscale, a London AI services firm, has agreed to lease the machine.

Nvidia announced that Microsoft and other of its customers will together use 120,000 of Nvidia's cutting-edge Blackwell AI chips in the kingdom by the end of next year, creating the largest concentration of the chips in Europe. Google has committed £5 billion to boost Britain's AI capacities.

OpenAI said it built one of the data centers included in its global "Stargate" initiative in the U.K. and will work with Nscale to put a data center in a new "AI Growth Zone" opening in northeast England. Nvidia and U.S. cloud services provider CoreWeave together will add
more than £11 billion in computing power for the U.K.'s AI push.

Announcement of the massive investments was timed to Donald Trump's arrival in England for a state visit.

The flood of money follows Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's June comment at a London tech conference that the U.K. has a "surprising" lack of AI infrastructure while European nations are surpassing it.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said the new tech alliance with the U.S. marks a “decisive step towards the U.K. becoming a world leader in AI”. The two countries also have agreed to collaborate in other areas, including nuclear power and quantum computing.

“A few years ago this investment would have been inconceivable because of the regulatory climate,” Microsoft president Brad Smith told the *Financial Times*. The company struggled for years to complete its $75-billion purchase of Activision Blizzard while the deal was delayed by the U.K.’s Competition and Markets Authority.

The investments still need to be worked out with Britain’s Computer & Communications Industry Association, a tech trade group, that has cited the Trump administration’s “outstanding concerns” over U.K.’s strict enforcement of competition rules, its digital services tax, and online safety rules.

TRENDPOST: *While the investments will supercharge the U.K.’s AI industry, it also will extend the global AI footprint of the largest U.S. giants, extending their control and influence over the AI industry throughout the Western world.*

AI WILL TRANSFORM WORLD TRADE, WTO REPORT SAYS

AI could boost productivity and lower costs enough over the next 15 years to increase the value of world trade by as much as 37 percent, according to a new report by the World Trade Organization.

Under that scenario, the world’s GDP could grow by 12 to 13 percent, the study said.

"AI could be a bright spot for trade in an increasingly complex trading environment," Johanna Hill, the WTO’s deputy director general, said in a public comment about the

study. She noted that AI also could make trading itself less expensive by cutting costs in communications, logistics, and regulatory compliance.

“AI-driven translation technologies can make communication faster and more cost-effective, particularly benefiting small producers and retailers by enabling them to expand into global markets,” the report pointed out.

If poorer nations are able to upgrade their digital infrastructure, AI’s benefits could boost their exports by as much as 11 percent.

At the same time, the report said that such gains will be realized only if AI is accompanied by strategic investments and policies designed to bring poorer nations deeper into world trade.

Without such policies, global economic divisions will worsen, it warned.

"The effects of the development and deployment of AI are raising concerns that many workers, and even entire economies, could be left behind," it noted.

WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said policy makers need to carefully manage the transition to AI.

"AI could upend labor markets, transforming some jobs whilst displacing others,” WTO director general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said in a press briefing announcing the study. “Managing these shifts demands investment in domestic policies to enhance education, skills, retraining, and social safety nets.”

Those policies include predictable trade rules and frameworks and lower tariffs on AI technology and the essential minerals needed to make them, she noted.

TRENDPOST: *Companies and countries are still rushing to ensure their own dominance and maximize their own profits from AI. They are unlikely to go out of their way to share technologies or fund what they would see as competition from other countries, especially those without a market or workforce to make such investments profitable.*

If a country is going to extend AI's capabilities to poorer countries, it probably will be China. It already has established extensive reciprocal trade and financing relationships with developing nations, such as through its Belt and Road Initiative. It could extend those structures to include AI-related trade with relative ease.